НЕ ТАКАЯ ИСТОРИЯ

ЯДЕРНУ ВІЙНУ МОЖНА ВИГРАТИ?!

«Хроніка "Великого десятиліття"» від автора бестселера «Криголам»

ЇЇ ІМ'Я БУЛО ТАТЬЯНА

ВІКТОР СУВОРОВ

Annotation

Viktor Suvorov (Vladimir Rezun) is a writer, historian, researcher, former intelligence officer, and GRU captain. He is the author of the historical bestsellers Icebreaker, Aquarium, and M-Day. An enemy of the Soviet Union, sentenced to death in absentia. Persona non grata in post-Soviet countries. "Her Name Was Tatiana is the author's latest work, which Ukrainians will be among the first in the world to read. How and why did General Zhukov drop a nuclear bomb on his own army and blow up his own battleship? How did Khrushchev come to power? How did the Soviet Union avoid the Chinese version of socialist modernization? Why did he plan to bombard Europe with nuclear bombs and take it over? You will find answers to these and many other questions in this book. The book is the first of the trilogy "Chronicle of the Great Decade". The second book is "Bummer" (to be published in the near future), and the third book, "Kuzka's Mother," was published in 2012.

- Viktor Suvorov
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Viktor Suvorov

Her name was TATIANA
Chronicle of the "Great Decade"

BOOK ONE

The mediocre and unprecedentedly cruel Marshal Zhukov did not leave behind any independent and valuable military thought, did not plan or conduct a single operation in which military art and outplaying the enemy with command skills played at least some role.

Only by a significant advantage in manpower, equipment, ammunition, and fuel. Only by the death toll of soldiers, which was many times greater than that of the enemy.

He undoubtedly knew how to do one thing: to get his orders carried out at any cost, regardless of the senselessness and bloodshed.

But Russia needs a great commander in a won war!

Mikhail Weller

Totalitarianism is more effective than democracy when it comes to lies and violence. However, democracy is more effective than totalitarianism in the economy, and this ultimately proved fatal for the USSR. The lesson of the collapse of the USSR is that effective economics defeated effective violence.

Yulia Latynina

EXPLANATION REQUIRED

On September 13, 1953, Nikita Khrushchev took office as First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU Central Committee).

September 13, 1963 marked the tenth anniversary of his reign. On the eve of this date, one of the court sycophants had the happy idea to declare that centuries would pass, but every subsequent generation of people around the world would remember these years with excitement and gratitude and call them the "Great Decade."

The idea was picked up, repeated, and amplified by all Soviet newspapers and magazines. The highest-ranking leaders spoke about the "Great Decade" from the podiums of conferences and congresses. All the cinemas of the Soviet Union repeated the movie Our Nikita Sergeevich, released 1961. Radio and television announcers trumpeted the "Great Decade" every day. The term became absolutely official, crowning the triad along with the other two:

The Great October Socialist Revolution, the Great
Patriotic War,
"The Great Decade.

This lasted exactly 13 months. On October 13, 1964, as a result of a conspiracy, Khrushchev was removed from all his posts and retired.

The "Great Decade" instantly turned into a "period of voluntarism." At the same time, it was not appropriate to call a voluntarist by name. For two decades, Khrushchev and the entire period of his rule fell out of our history. No books or articles were written about the Great Decade, no movies were made, no poems or songs were composed.

The new ruler of our country, Marshal of the Soviet Union, four times Hero of the Soviet Union, Hero of Socialist Labor, Comrade Leonid Brezhnev, was a remarkably talented man. He held the positions of General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and Chairman of the USSR Defense Council. In addition, he wrote books for which he was awarded the Lenin Prize for Literature.

So, in Brezhnev's three books about the prewar period, the war, postwar construction, and the development of virgin lands, Khrushchev is not mentioned at all. If we are to believe Brezhnev's "true" books, then we must admit that there never was any Khrushchev.

Although it was Khrushchev who drew attention to the young engineer Brezhnev and brought him to the highest levels of power.

Although before the war, at the beginning of the war, and in the postwar period, Khrushchev was Brezhnev's immediate superior.

Although, under the leadership of Lieutenant General Khrushchev, Major General Brezhnev participated in the coup d'état and the arrest of Soviet Marshal Beria.

Although the rise of virgin lands was Khrushchev's idea. Brezhnev supervised the development of virgin lands under Khrushchev's personal control.

Although during the Great Decade, Brezhnev was the most loyal Khrushchevite.

Although Brezhnev, along with Khrushchev, took the most active part in the overthrow of Soviet Marshal Zhukov.

Although Brezhnev received his first
"Golden Star.

Great Decade is an amazing layer of our history.

My plan is to write three books about the time of Khrushchev's rule: "Her Name Was Tatiana, Bummer, and Kuzka's Mother.

In order to understand who Nikita Khrushchev was and who his closest associates were, it is necessary to take a cursory glance at the events that preceded the "Great Decade."

Section 1

1

On July 29, 1939, Senior Major of State Security Ivan Serov was appointed Deputy Head of the Main Directorate of State Security - GUDB of the NKVD of the USSR. The senior major of state security was thirty-three years old. The rank of senior major of state security corresponded to an army commander - two diamonds in the buttonholes.

Serov held the position of deputy head of the GUDB for only a month - during August 1939. During this month, Serov did something that prompted Stalin to reward him generously.

In the NKVD system, the highest position outside of Moscow was the People's Commissar of Internal Affairs of Ukraine. Nikita S. Khrushchev was the leader of Ukraine at the time. His official title was First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine.

On August 31, 1939, Stalin picked up the phone and asked whether Comrade Khrushchev had any objection to the appointment of Ivan Serov as People's Commissar of Internal Affairs of Ukraine.

Stalin might not have asked Khrushchev's opinion, but he was a wise man who knew how to show respect for his subordinates when necessary.

Could Khrushchev have objected? After all, he knew absolutely nothing about Serov, who had only recently joined the NKVD.

Stalin did not explain to Khrushchev what exactly Serov had done as deputy head of the GUDB of the NKVD of the USSR. However, if the Great Leader considered it possible and necessary to appoint a fighter of the secret front to the highest Chekist position outside Moscow as a sign of gratitude for just one month of service in the previous, already very high, position, then so be it.

The next day, on September 1, 1939, Germany attacked Poland.

On September 2, 1939, Serov arrived in Kyiv. From the station he went straight to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine to introduce himself to Khrushchev.

2

The position of People's Commissar of Internal Affairs of Ukraine was cursed. But so were all other positions in the NKVD.

The first chief of the NKVD of Ukraine was Vsevolod Apolonovych Balytskyi, a 1st-ranked state security commissioner. He was arrested on the day he turned forty-five and shot dead.

This position was then held by the 2nd ranking SB commissioner Israel Moiseevich Leplevsky. He was arrested and shot at the age of 42.

The vacant seat was taken by the 3rd rank State Security Commissioner Alexander Ivanovich Uspensky. He was thirty-six years old when he disappeared, realizing where things were headed. Ouspensky passed off his disappearance as suicide, leaving a note on his desk: "Look for the corpse in the Dnipro." However, one cannot escape the punitive hand of the proletariat. The note was not believed. Ouspensky was put on the All-Union wanted list. Six months later, he was caught and shot.

There was a clear trend: each new chief of the NKVD of Ukraine was younger than his predecessor and one rank lower in rank. And they all have the same end. This is also a trend.

The position was vacant for a year. It was commanded by the temporary acting officers [1].

And now a new People's Commissar has been appointed to Kyiv. In line with the trend, he is younger than his predecessors and has the rank of senior major of the SB. If this continues, a twenty-year-old lieutenant of state security will have to be appointed chief of the NKVD of Ukraine and shot immediately after taking office.

Although Serov could have been an exception to the rule.

Khrushchev received the new People's Commissar out of turn, asked him about his health, family, plans for the future, and asked what the NKVD leadership thought about Germany's attack on Poland and whether Great Britain would fulfill its commitments to stand by Poland.

The senior major of the SB confidently replied that he would do so.

On September 3, 1939, Great Britain and France declared war on Germany.

On September 4, 1939, Ivan Serov, People's Commissar of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, was promoted to the rank of State Security Commissioner of the 3rd rank.

3

On September 17, 1939, Red Army troops crossed the border into Poland. Both Khrushchev and Serov had to work hard to make the citizens of the annexed territories "happy" by making them "love" their new homeland, which was called the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The recipe is simple and reliable: destroy the bad, then only the good will remain.

Comrade Khrushchev had considerable experience in this matter.

Ivan Serov - People's Commissar of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, State Security Commissioner

In 1937, Comrade Stalin authorized the first secretaries of regions, territories, and republics to exterminate enemies who prevented the construction of

"bright future". He set a standard for everyone. However, this was not enough for the secretaries.

> "Immediately, the Politburo of the Central Committee received requests from all the secretaries to shoot or imprison whom and how many people should be shot. Interestingly, Nikita Khrushchev was the first to be bloodthirsty. The documents have been preserved: In 1937, in the Moscow region , he managed to find 20 thousand "kulaks" to be shot. Why are there so many of them in the Moscow region, and five years after collectivization? He repeated the same thing in Ukraine."
>
> *(Chervona Zvezda, - 2006. - September 20)*

It should be borne in mind that in 1953 Khrushchev became the master of the Soviet Union and first of all ordered to clean out the archives, destroying any traces of his active activities. What about that tells "The Red Star, which was only accidentally preserved through an oversight, is an indirect testament to Khrushchev's personal contribution to the struggle against the enemies of the people.

And one more thing: before World War II, there were eleven republics in the Soviet Union. In nine of them, the secretaries who begged Stalin for permission to increase the limits on executions later fell under the punitive "axe" of proletarian justice. They were replaced by new secretaries, who shot and imprisoned them, asked for an increase in production rates, shot again, and then got bullets in the back of their heads.

Only in two republics did the first secretaries successfully survive the years 1937 and 1938: Beria in Georgia and Khrushchev in Ukraine.

Khrushchev and Beria were not just the leaders of the Red Terror, but also cunning guys. Otherwise, both would have shared the fate of the rest of their colleagues.

4

Since we are talking about the prewar period, I will add a light stroke with a soft brush to the portrait of Nikita Khrushchev. On July 10, 1937, the Politburo adopted a resolution on the creation of regional "troikas".

Each "troika" consisted of the head of the local NKVD, a prosecutor, and the party secretary of a particular district, region, province, or republic. All suspicious "troikas" were divided into the first and second categories. Those who fell into the first category were shot, while the rest were imprisoned for long terms. "The Troika, without going into details, passed sentences based on lists that included thousands of people.

The following requests were sent from the Central Committee of the Communist Party to all republics, territories, regions, and districts: what will be the personnel of the "troika"? What limit of executions do you think should be set first?

The central committee, having received responses from the local level, approved the personal composition of the fate makers and the initial limit.

Nikita Sergeevich Khrushchev at the beginning of his bloody career - without "branded" baldness

Paragraph 12 of the Politburo resolution of July 10, 1937, determined the composition of one of these "troikas."

> "In the Moscow region, consisting of Messrs. Redens, Maslov, Khrushchev."

The same paragraph approved the first decision of the "troika" in the Moscow region to shoot 6,500 people and expel 32,805 people to distant regions of the country (Molotov, Malenkov, Kaganovich. 1957. Transcript of the June Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. - Moscow. - 1998. - P. 747).

Let's analyze the personal composition of this "troika" to evaluate the colleagues of comrade Khrushchev, together with whom he cleansed Moscow and

Moscow region from spies and pests, counterrevolutionaries, terrorists and saboteurs.

Comrade Stanislav Frantzovych Redens. His military : in the Cheka 1918. Investigator of the Moscow Cheka. Personal secretary to Comrade Dzerzhinsky. Chairman of the Odesa Regional Cheka. Chairman of the Crimean Cheka. Head of the Special Department of the Black and Azov Seas Naval Forces. Dzerzhinsky's assistant in charge of the Supreme Council of National Economy. Head of the Transcaucasian GPU. Head of the Prosecutor General's Office of Belarus. Head of the GPU of Ukraine. Head of the NKVD in the Moscow region. Commissioner of State Security of the 1st rank. Married to the sister of Stalin's wife Anna Alliluyeva. One of the organizers of the Zinoviev and Kamenev trials. On January 20, 1938, he was appointed People's Commissar of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan. On November 22, 1938, he was arrested. He was found guilty:

> "in espionage in favor of Polish intelligence, as well as in being a member of a conspiratorial organization in the NKVD system, on whose instructions he carried out hostile work aimed at destroying Party-Soviet cadres, carried out mass unjustified arrests of Soviet citizens, many of whom were shot."

Comrade Redens himself was shot on February 12, 1940. The second in "trio" was Konstantin Maslov, a prosecutor Moscow. Arrested on July 3, 1938. Found guilty of:

> "...was an active participant in the counter-revolutionary right-wing Trotskyist malignant terrorist organization that existed in the prosecutor's office of Moscow and the region, carried out subversive activities, was a member of a combat terrorist group that prepared terrorist acts against the leaders of the CPSU (b) and the Soviet government."

On March 7, 1939, citizen Maslov was convicted and executed on the same day. His deputies, Koblentz and Yevzerikhin, were shot together with him.

Thus, comrades Redens, Maslov, and Khrushchev diligently searched for the enemies of the people and exterminated them by the thousands. And now it turned out that Redens was a Polish spy, a conspirator who illegally arrested Soviet people and shot them! Maslov was a terrorist who was preparing an assassination attempt on the leaders of the world's first socialist state!

Comrade Khrushchev worked alongside both the spy Redens and the terrorist Maslov, signing the same multi-meter-long lists with tens of thousands of names without delving into the substance of the accusations or even having the physical ability to read so many confessions extracted during interrogations.

However, Redens and Maslov were promoted, and Khrushchev was promoted.

We can say whatever we like about Khrushchev. Of course, he is not a fool. At least in that historical period.

5

The main task of the NKVD was to fight the enemies of the people. Comrade Serov , who arrived in Kyiv on September 2, 1939, as the new People's Commissar for Internal Affairs of Ukraine, fell under the hand of to
The "right" boss. The one who fought this fight mercilessly and continuously.

Khrushchev and Serov understood each other. They worked together. Their relationship developed.

On April 26, 1940, a decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR was issued awarding a large number of Chekists. It was not specified what they were awarded for: "For significant services in strengthening...".

In fact, they were honored for the execution of thousands of Polish officers. The following heads of NKVD departments were on the list of order bearers:

Kalinin region - Major of State Security D. Tokarev; Smolensk region

- Captain of the State Security Service E. Kupriyanov;

Kharkiv region - Major P. Safonov.

These are the heads of the NKVD in the very regions where mass graves will later be found:

Midne in the Kaliningrad region,

Katyn in the Smolensk region, and

Pyatikhatki in the Kharkiv region.

In this list of the frontrunners of the struggle "for the happiness of mankind," among the first was State Security Commissioner of the 3rd rank Ivan Serov, who was awarded the highest state award, the Order of Lenin.

6

I once appeared on Kyiv television. From Britain, via a teleconference. I said a familiar phrase: "In August 1939, Hitler and Stalin divided Poland."

I was interrupted by a fierce opponent: "Everything was right! Stalin merely annexed Ukrainian lands to Ukraine. Dare you tell Ukrainians now that this is not our land! Go ahead, dare!"

A map of the partition of Poland with Stalin's signature. It shows neither the Ukrainian SSR nor the BSSR, but only the USSR.

And I'm angry too.

First, there was the territorial dispute between the Soviet Union and Poland.

It should have been solved with Poland. But not with Hitler.

Secondly, a great war was brewing in Europe and around the world since the mid-1930s. Comrade Stalin knew about this, and he spoke openly about it with hope and joy. In particular, in March 1939, he spoke from the rostrum of the Eighteenth Congress of the Communist Party. Given that a great war was coming, the solution of territorial problems could have been delayed. After all, the Soviet Union had somehow managed to live without those territories for two , and it could have endured.

Having gained new territories, Stalin lost the "airbag" of Poland. The partition of Poland meant that there was a common border with Germany, and thus Hitler was able to deliver a devastating blow to our country, and a sudden one at that.

Thirdly, if we could not return the Ukrainian and Belarusian lands without Hitler's help, Comrade Stalin should have asked the question differently: "Take what you consider yours, Hitler, and I will take what is mine, but let a reduced but still independent Poland remain between us. Then there will be no common border between Germany and the Soviet Union. Then you will not be able to attack me suddenly!"

For some reason, Comrade Stalin did not like this option. He needed a common border with Germany for some reason. For this purpose, he gave Hitler even Warsaw, which had once been part of the Russian Empire but had never been under German rule.

Where does such generosity come from?

This is because Comrade Stalin considered the border along the Bug to be temporary. And he did not hide it.

The People's Commissar for Defense of the USSR, Marshal of the Soviet Union S. Tymoshenko, announced this in an order published in all Soviet newspapers and read before the formation of each company, battery, and squadron:

> "The Soviet Union grew significantly and moved its borders to the west. The capitalist world had to squeeze in and give way. But we, the soldiers of the Red Army, cannot be complacent and rest on our laurels!"

(Order of the of the People's Commissar of Defense № 400, November 7, 1940)

So it looks like we have pushed our borders westward, but we will not rest on our laurels. This is not enough for us.

This is not a speech by a politician or a report by a journalist. This is a combat order to all units of the Red Army. However, to the west of the Soviet borders are only those countries that are allies of Germany or those lands that Germany has captured.

In short, in an order of the Red Army, the People's Commissar of Defense of the USSR officially announced that we would reach Germany.

Stalin established a common border with Germany not to liberate Ukrainians and Belarusians, but to create conditions for a sudden attack on Germany and the conquest of Europe.

This is how the occupiers divided Poland in 1939

KEY POINT

I recommend that my fierce opponent from Kyiv think this: Comrade Stalin did not annex the lands torn from Poland to Ukraine and Belarus. He annexed them to the Soviet Union.

The authorities in those lands were neither Ukrainian nor Belarusian. The government, as elsewhere in Ukraine, was established by the Soviet, commissar, Chekist, snitch, vertukhay, and firing squad.

Section 2

1

On June 7, 1940, Army General Heorhii Konstantynovych Zhukov was appointed commander of the troops of the Kyiv Special Military District.

He was appointed for a reason. Another liberation was planned. Comrade Stalin decided to break away Bessarabia from Romania and turn it into the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Moldovans and Romanians are twin brothers. They are not at all like Russians in terms of language or way of life. This is not important. Bessarabia was once part of the Russian Empire, so it should have been returned under its native roof, correcting the historical injustice. At the same time, Northern Bukovyna, which was never part of the Russian Empire, should be returned.

On June 9, 1940, Zhukov's order put the troops of the Odesa and Kyiv military districts on combat alert. The concentration and deployment of troops on the Romanian border began immediately.

On June 20, 1940, the Southern Front was secretly formed.
Army General Zhukov is the commander of the front.

As part of the Southern Front:

command of three armies (5th, 9th, and 12th);

management of 13 corps (10 - infantry, 3 - cavalry);

40 divisions (32 - rifle, 2 - motorized rifle, 6 - cavalry);

14 brigades (11 tank brigades, 3 airborne brigades);

96 artillery regiments (66 as part of divisions, 14 corps, 16 reserve of the Main Command);

45 fighter and bomber regiments.

The Southern Front consisted of 460,000 soldiers and commanders, 12,000 guns and mortars, 3,112 tanks, and 2,168 combat aircraft. To support the actions of the Southern Front's coastal flank, part of the Black Sea Fleet and ships of the Dnipro Flotilla were deployed to the mouth of the Danube. Behind the troops of the Southern Front, NKVD units were deployed. All together, they numbered more than half a million.

The troops of the Southern Front received Zhukov's order to defeat the Romanian army if it resisted.

After concentrating troops on the border, Comrade Molotov demanded that the Romanian government return Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina.

The Romanian government, realizing that it was useless to resist, ordered the troops to retreat.

2

Why did Stalin and Zhukov need Bessarabia and Northern Bukovyna?

Here is the official Soviet response, given by Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor, Colonel O. S. Orlov:

> "From the territory of Bessarabia, Soviet aviation could threaten the oil fields of Romania, which was the main supplier of oil to Germany. Northern Bukovyna was needed because a strategic railroad of strategic importance ran through its territory from Odesa through Chisinau, Chernivtsi, and Lviv, which had a European gauge and allowed the use of rolling stock on European railways."
>
> *(Military History Journal, 1991. - No. 10. - P. 17)*

I don't understand anything!

In September 1939, the Soviet Union and Germany signed the Treaty of Friendship and Frontier.

I repeat: about friendship!

In June 1940, Germany had no military plans to attack the Soviet Union. The troops of the Southern Front, under the command of Army General Zhukov, moved to Bessarabia to "threaten the oil fields of Romania, which was the main supplier of oil to Germany."

What kind of friendship is ?

Hitler did not threaten the Soviet Union at that time. On the contrary! In June 1940, Hitler was at war against France and Britain, and Germany's rear was unprotected.

It was not Hitler who threatened the Soviet Union. It was Stalin and Zhukov who put a gun with a cocked trigger to the "oil heart" of Germany.

The production of synthetic fuel in Germany was established in a noteworthy volume only in 1943. In June 1940, Germany, blockaded at sea by the British Navy, received oil only from Romania and the Soviet Union.

In other words, the Red Army's attack on Romania, with the simultaneous cessation of supplies from the Soviet Union, could have instantly stopped all German tanks and armored personnel carriers, artillery tractors and vehicles, fighters and bombers, cruisers and battleships, destroyers and submarines on all fronts.

To put it simply, the Southern Front under Zhukov's command not only tore some land away from Romania, but also threatened the existence of Germany at a time when Germany was waging war against France and Great Britain. If Comrade Stalin gives the order, the Red Army will attack the Ploesti, and World War II will end with the victory of the Soviet Union.

Our medal-winning academics call me all sorts of bad names, but they openly admit that the Red Army's actions against Romania in June 1940 were aimed at threatening the oil-bearing areas of Romania, which was the main supplier of oil to Germany. And this is the whole point of The Icebreaker. Dear academics, thank you for your support!

It was not enough for Stalin and Zhukov to pose a threat to Germany. For some reason, they also needed Northern Bukovyna, steam locomotives, and cars with European gauge. Why would they "use rolling stock on the railroads of Europe" if the Red Army was not going to attack Europe?

3

The most terrible and shameful military defeat in the history of the world is the defeat of the Red Army in 1941. No army in the world has ever lost so many tanks, guns, and airplanes, so many rifles and machine guns, so many rounds of ammunition and shells, abandoned such vast territories, or surrendered so many prisoners to the enemy.

The Red Army's combat operations were planned by the General Staff, which was headed by Army General Zhukov from January 1941. And there are people who claim that Zhukov never lost a single battle. Aren't the General Staff and its brilliant chief responsible for the disgrace of 1941?

Commander of the Kyiv District Army General Georgy Konstantinovich Zhukov

Zhukov's guilt for the defeat of 1941 is not limited to criminal negligence in the planning of combat operations and his removal from command at the beginning of the war. The defeat of 1941 became possible because a year earlier Zhukov's Southern Front had threatened Germany's security. Zhukov took Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina from Romania without a fight. But the bloodless victory had bloody consequences. Hitler suddenly realized that he was not the master of Europe, that Germany as a whole depended on the further actions of the Soviet Union.

The actions of the Red Army in June 1940 forced Hitler to assess the strategic situation from a completely different perspective: Germany was at war with Great Britain, but at any moment Germany's army, air force, and navy, as well as industry and transportation, could be paralyzed if Stalin so decided.

The famous strategy theorist B. Liddell Hart believed that the ominous actions of the Red Army in the summer of 1940 were the impetus that made Hitler think about Stalin's future plans and come to the only possible conclusion.

> "Hitler had a serious conversation with Colonel General A. Jodl about the possibility of war against the Soviet Union if the Red Army tried to seize the oil-bearing areas of Romania."
>
> *(Liddel Hart, W. History of the Second World War - London: Cassell, 1970), p. 150)*

This was the first step in developing a plan to attack the Soviet Union. Not for the sake of some "living space," but for the sake of saving Germany and Europe.

In the summer of 1940, Hitler had so much space that he could barely control it: from Narvik to Lyon, from Copenhagen to Prague and Vienna, from Warsaw to Paris.

4

In 1976, Voyenvydav published Liddell Hart's book in Russian with the title "The Second World War". The author and editor of the preface was a well-known fighter for the truth of history, Colonel A. I. Rzeshevsky.

Apparently, due to an oversight, the above quote about the reasons why Hitler began preparations for war against the Soviet Union was omitted from the text.

For this and similar minor oversights in the preparation for the publication of foreign books, when the most important things were omitted, which caused the meaning to be lost or changed to the opposite, Oleh Oleksandrovych Rzeshevsky was awarded orders, positions, academic degrees, and titles; he became president of the Association of Historians of the Second World War, an honored scientist of the RSFSR, a professor, a doctor of science, etc.

However, Rzeszewski is only a fighter on the ideological front. how did Zhukov himself assess his own actions in June 1940, which prompted Hitler to begin preparations for an attack on the Soviet Union?

Zhukov did not evaluate his actions in any way.

"Krasnaya , December 15, 2009, calls Zhukov's memoirs "priceless book". However, in the "priceless book" the outstanding commander forgot to to inform his enthusiastic readers about what what he was doing he was doing in May 1940. At that time, Hitler was invading France, and Zhukov was in Moscow, holding no positions. He was supposedly sitting around doing nothing. However, he had a job to do. He was preparing a war against Romania. Finland's recent experience has shown that small wars need to be prepared as seriously as large ones. On June 7, 1940, Zhukov arrived in Kyiv not empty-handed, but with a plan to defeat Romania if Bessarabia and Northern Bukovyna were not given up without a fight. The creation of the Southern Front and the concentration of troops did not require new meetings with Stalin to clarify the details. Everything had already been decided and worked out. All that remained was to prepare the troops.

Zhukov himself did not mention or reflect on any of this in his memoirs. In the first edition, he wrote about Romania and the Southern Front

Not a word!

The second edition was published after Zhukov's death, but it contains no mention of the Southern Front.

Since the early 1980s, I have been frequently appearing on British radio for two decades, mostly on Seva Novgorodtsev's program. And I persistently hammered on one point: Zhukov does not remember that in June 1940 there was a Southern Front, that Zhukov himself was its commander, that the actions of this front played a fatal role in the fate of our people, our Motherland!

I don't know what worked: my shouting or some other factor, but gradually the memory of the already dead strategist became clearer, and twenty years after his death, his memoirs finally contained a confession that the Southern Front existed and that he himself commanded it. This information was included in the memoirs, though with an emphasis on some comic moments, but without delving into serious issues.

It is a pity that, having mentioned the Southern Front, the strategist did not begin to think about the consequences of his actions.

5

In his memoirs, numerous interviews, and speeches, Zhukov portrays himself as a strategist and Stalin as a cowardly man who did not understand military matters, at least during the first half of the war. Zhukov told director Hryhoriy Chukhrai:

"Stalin was afraid of war. And fear is a bad advisor."

(Chervona Zvezda. - 1995. - September 19)

That's great!

If Stalin was afraid of war, then the outstanding strategist should have said in May 1940: "Comrade Stalin, the idea of liberating Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina is quite dangerous. Especially now, when all of Hitler's tanks, airplanes, the entire navy, all of his clever generals, and almost all of his divisions are fighting in France. We will scare Hitler. He has nothing to defend Romania with. Why do we need Bessarabia, and at such a time? Don't we have enough land in the Soviet Union? Just imagine, Comrade Stalin, that we are waging a full-scale war against Japan, that we have no oil of our own, that we are buying it from an independent Azerbaijan that cannot defend itself against a powerful enemy. And now, next to these vital oil production areas, someone has concentrated a half-million-strong army with three thousand tanks, two thousand airplanes, and tens of thousands of guns. You and I, Comrade Stalin, will be in trouble. You know how Hitler feels today. After all, he must respond to our threat. What options does he have? Hitler can only avert the threat from Romania by defeating the Soviet Union. By our actions, we are provoking Hitler to retaliate. We are inviting a German attack. For the sake of German defense, Hitler will be forced to start a war against us."

According to Zhukov, Stalin was stupid and cowardly, and Zhukov himself - a wise and brave strategist. Why did the wise and brave not keep Stalin from making a fatal mistake?

6

There were three forces in our country: The Party, the Army, and the State Security.

When we talk about the Party, we mean related and related structures: the state apparatus, including the courts and the prosecutor's office, the Communist Youth Union, the press (which was all Party-owned), and trade unions.

When we talk about the Army, we also mean the military industry, paramilitary organizations, and tens of millions of reservists.

When we talk about the State Security (it will be mentioned tonight), we take into account the entire punitive apparatus of the proletarian dictatorship: masses of informers, police, border and internal troops, prisons, and camps.

In June 1940, three figures met in Kyiv:

Khrushchev, the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine, is the Party;

The commander of the troops of the Kyiv Special Military District (and the Southern Front), Army General Zhukov, is the Army;

People's Commissioner of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, State Security Commissioner of the 3rd rank Serov is the State Security.

Ukraine was itself as if reduced copy of the Soviet Union.

Khrushchev, Zhukov, and Serov are three fighters for the people's happiness.

One fought for a brighter future in Moscow, killing tens of thousands of people there and no less in Ukraine; the other liberated Poland, the third liberated Romania.

Khrushchev, Zhukov, and Serov are a triumvirate, three heroes, three musketeers, and three tankers, merry friends who a Russian folk drink in a brotherly way. They hit it off right away.

The great and mighty, true and free Russian language has so many beautiful words, vivid and imaginative expressions. But for this case, I can't think of anything more apt. There is only one that fits here

- "sniffed".

Soon the war scattered them across endless expanses, but they did not forget each other and helped as much as they could. Throughout the war and after it. Frontline roads brought them together and scattered them for thousands of miles.

7

On November 7, 1943, Lieutenant General Khrushchev, a member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine, and Marshal Zhukov, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Soviet Union, reported to Stalin that Kyiv had been taken!

On the day of the anniversary of the October Revolution!

Many years later, the poet Yurii Leonidovych Nesterenko would write about such victories:

> And it was known to soldiers
> torn from their homes by war,
> That cities are taken by the date, and
> therefore at any cost.

Kyiv is a brilliant example in this case. For the big date. We won't stand for the price!

There will be many more to come - cities taken for anniversaries. And the crown of it all is Berlin. It will have to be taken by May 1, 1945, the day of solidarity of all the world's proletarians.

In November 1943, Nikita Khrushchev stayed in Kyiv to rebuild Ukraine, while Zhukov went to Berlin. Serov followed him.

After the war, fate raised one or the other. Sometimes it threw them on the rocks of disgrace.

Stalin removed Khrushchev from the post of leader of Ukraine. And soon he raised him up. He put him back in his place. Then Stalin put Khrushchev in charge of Moscow for the second time.

In the spring of 1945, 2nd Rank State Security Commissioner Serov was appointed Zhukov's deputy for civil administration in Germany.

Zhukov and Serov found themselves with a lot of money at their disposal. They both had a lot of fun. It was not only about the treasures of German banks, seized bags of unaccounted-for money that were still in circulation, kilometers of expensive fabrics, and wagons of precious furniture, but also about

paintings from the Dresden Gallery, gold and diamonds, and the crown of the German Kaiser's wife.

Stalin learned of the widespread rampage of the brazen looters. Serov was frightened. Soon was even promoted.

Zhukov would have been spared. But in addition to looting, theft on a particularly large scale, illegal distribution of orders and other criminal offenses, he had another flaw: unrestrained boasting. Zhukov took credit for victories in battles in which he did not participate.

Stalin removed Zhukov from high positions and sent him to command the Odesa Military District, and two years later, the Ural Military District.

Zhukov did not lose hope. His friend Khrushchev was a member of the Politburo, meaning he was one of the top ten leaders who ruled the Soviet Union.

His friend, the Hero of the Soviet Union, Colonel-General Serov, was the First Deputy Minister of the Interior of the USSR.

Zhukov could count on Khrushchev to return him to the top of power one day. And Serov would help.

This opportunity arose in summer of 1952.

KEY POINT

We are opening the book "History of the Border Guard Service of Belarus" published by the State Border Committee of the Republic of Belarus (All-Union Exhibition Center of the Ministry of Finance, Minsk). On page 251 we read:

> "After the Soviet and Nazi troops reached the demarcation line on September 28, 1939, the USSR and Germany signed a border treaty."

That's !

On August 23, 1939, the Soviet Union and Germany signed a Non-Aggression Pact in the Kremlin. It was signed by Comrade Molotov and Herr Ribbentrop. The treaty went down in history with their names on it.

The agreement is quite strange.

There was no common border between the Soviet Union and Germany. Poland was between them. Therefore, Germany could not attack the Soviet Union, and the Soviet Union could not attack Germany.

Wait a minute! Why sign a non-aggression agreement if an attack is physically impossible?

Everything is obvious: the non-aggression pact was in fact a pact to attack Poland. The agreement on the division of Poland was enshrined in an additional secret protocol. If Poland was divided, a common border between the Soviet Union and Germany would emerge. It was precisely for this case that a non-aggression treaty between the Soviet Union and Germany was needed.

The partition of Poland meant that Great Britain and France would declare war on Germany, which would start a European, and thus a World War.

Stalin understood this. Hitler did not understand this.

The treaty was signed. Hitler invaded Poland and unleashed a war against Great Britain and France, potentially against the United States and the entire world.

That's how Comrade Stalin pushed Hitler into World War II, staying on the sidelines, waiting for the right moment.

For decades, the leaders of the Soviet Union denied the existence of an additional agreement on the partition of Poland. That is: "We did not divide Poland with Hitler, so the Second World War was started by anyone but Stalin.

Molotov himself categorically denied the existence of an additional secret protocol. The writer Felix Chuev held dozens of conversations with Molotov:

> "Several times я asked about this Molotov - "The answer is the same."
>
> *(Chuev Ф. Molotov. Semi-state ruler. - Moscow: OLMA-PRESS, 2002. - P. 28)*

Chuev himself is inclined to think so. He says that additional secret protocols have been published, but isn't it a fake?

Let's assume that on August 23, 1939, no agreement was reached between Molotov and Ribbentrop, i.e. between Stalin and Hitler, on the division of Poland, and no additional protocol was signed. In this case, I repeat the question: why would Ribbentrop and Molotov sign a non-aggression pact between the Soviet Union and Germany if such an attack was impossible without the division of Poland?

Now let's turn to a quote from a book published by a respected institution, the State Border Committee of the Republic of Belarus:

"After the Soviet and Nazi troops reached the demarcation line..."

Germany attacked Poland on September 1, 1939. Comrade Stalin waited for Great Britain and France to declare war on Germany, after Germany had crushed the main forces of the Polish army. Then, Stalin gave the order to the Red Army. On September 17, 1939, the Red Army stabbed Poland in the back. Soon, Soviet and German troops advancing from both sides met on the demarcation line.

Stop!

When and by whom was this line established? Let's assume that it was not Molotov and Ribbentrop who divided Poland and drew the demarcation line in the Kremlin on August 23, 1939.

A question to the leadership of the State Border Committee of the Republic of Belarus: where did the demarcation line come from? Who drew it, agreed on it, and approved it with Stalin and Hitler?

Let's agree for a moment: the published photocopies of the secret additional protocols of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact are a fake, anti-Russian meanness. But if it was not Molotov and Ribbentrop who, in the presence of Stalin and with Hitler's consent, drew the demarcation line on the map, then who drew it, where and when?

You have the floor, comrade border generals. This is

the first question. And here's the second.

On September 28, 1939, Ribbentrop visited Moscow once again. The border line between the Soviet Union and Germany was finally agreed upon, and the Treaty of Friendship and Frontier was signed.

I had to mention this agreement several times in this book.

Now let's read the quote from the book of the Belarusian border generals once again. They called this agreement "On the Border".

Here, dear readers, is a brilliant example of falsification of history. A single word has been dropped from the official title of the treaty between the two great powers. And the meaning has been radically changed: it turns out that there was no friendship with Hitler.

This is how the generals-falsifiers of fraternal Belarus, educated in the border schools of the KGB of the USSR, distort our common history.

Chapter 3

1

In order to understand the logic of the invisible battles and fights that shook our country after World War II, from Moscow to the very edges, from the southern mountains to the northern seas, we must recall the basics.

All the classics of communism linked the path to a "bright future" to war.

Karl Marx:

> "We say to the workers: You may have to go through another 15, 20, 50 years of civil war in order to change the existing conditions and to make yourselves capable of domination."
>
> *(Meeting of the Central Committee on September 15, 1850)*

Friedrich Engels on how the coming world war will turn out for humanity:

> "Only one outcome is absolutely certain: general exhaustion and the creation of conditions for the final victory of the working class."
>
> *(December 15, 1887)*

In 1914, the long-awaited world war finally broke out. At first, Lenin rejoiced: everything was going according to plan, just as Marx and Engels had predicted.

However, the war dragged on, and the "final victory of the working class" was not in sight. Lenin did not lose heart: in case another such war, i.e., the Second World War, should happen. It was as a result of the Second World War that

will come A world revolution. У September 1916 of 1916 Lenin composed "The Military Program of the Proletarian Revolution":

> "Humanity will survive, as a last resort, a second imperialist war if the revolution does not grow out of this war."

Lenin himself had lost hope that the revolution would take place in his lifetime. On January 9, 1917, while staying in quiet, peaceful and well-fed Switzerland, he declared:

> "We older people may not live to see the decisive battles of this coming revolution."

To Lenin's good fortune and the misfortune of the people of our country, the revolution took place the following month, and in a place where no one, including Lenin, expected it - in Russia.

Thus, the First World War did provide a partial result-the victory of the Communists on one-sixth of the land. All that was left was to wait for World War II.

Joseph Stalin:

> "A new imperialist war is brewing... It will probably end the revolution and call into question the very existence of capitalism in a number of countries."
>
> *(January 26, 1934, Report of the XVII Party Congress on the work of the Central Committee of the CPSU (b))*

> "The First World Imperialist War brought about the victory of the revolution in one of the largest countries... The second world imperialist war may also lead to the victory of the revolution in one or more countries".
>
> *(March 10, 1939, Report of the XVIII Party Congress on the work of the Central Committee of the CPSU (b))*

This is said hopefully less than six months before the first shot of the Second World War.

In the same year, a new field manual of the Red Army, PU-39, was published:

> "If the enemy imposes war on us, the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army will be the most offensive of all armies that have ever attacked. We will wage the war offensively, with the most resolute aim of completely defeating the enemy on his own territory."

A fig leaf is used here: "if the enemy imposes".

We are looking forward to the war that will free the proletarians of the capitalist countries from slavery, but we will not start this war we want. It is being imposed on us.

However, the following is in plain text: The Red Army will be the most offensive of all that have ever been attacked. Consequently, the Red Army will surpass all the aggressors of history, eclipse the glory of the great conquerors: Atilla, Genghis Khan, Batu, Tamerlane, Bonaparte.

2

Comrade Stalin did not have time to become the most offensive. He had to fight off the attacker himself, who was several weeks ahead of him, and perhaps even a few days, if not a day.

The Second World War destroyed all communist theories.

According to the writings of Marx-Lenin-Trotsky, the damned bourgeois had to fight against communism only because the power of the proletarians in one country would be an example for the proletarians of all other countries. That's how happy you will live if you follow our example and overthrow the damn bourgeois!

However, no bourgeois attacked the Soviet Union. On the contrary, the United States and Great Britain did their best to rescue Stalin, who was in trouble.

And it was not capitalists who attacked the Soviet Union, but socialists. The war on the European continent was fought between the world's first two socialist states, the Soviet Union and Germany. It would be logical to call this war the First Socialist War.

The Second World War ended, but it did not fulfill the expectations that Comrade Stalin and other comrades had for it. We failed to put the whole of Europe on our path of development. What's next?

The next step was to prepare for World War III. At the same time, of course, without taking responsibility for its outbreak, hiding behind the same leaflet: if the enemies impose war, the long-awaited World Revolution will finally break out and win.

3

In 1951, the Institute of Philosophy of the USSR Academy of Sciences published a textbook
"Historical Materialism".

The book killed with the sheer composition of the authors. That is, not by the list, but by its absence. The names were hidden. It was simply and succinctly stated: the authors.

It was only reported that this work was created "under the general editorship of corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences F. V. Konstantinov."

It is known about Fyodor Vasilyevich Konstantinov that he was Comrade Stalin's favorite philosopher. After Stalin, he became the favorite philosopher of Comrades Khrushchev, Brezhnev, and Andropov. He was a Hero of Socialist Labor, Doctor of Philosophy, professor, academician of the USSR Academy of Sciences, candidate for membership in the CPSU Central Committee, and from 1955 he was head of the Department of Agitation and Propaganda of the CPSU Central Committee.

In 1951, this textbook could not be published without Stalin's permission and approval. The most terrible punishments in those days awaited those who made the slightest mistake in ideological clashes. In 1951, deviations in matters of Marxist-Leninist philosophy were equated with escape. The convoy fired without warning.

To anyone who claims that Stalin allegedly abandoned the idea of the World Revolution, I strongly recommend reading Historical Materialism before going to bed. The main idea of the textbook is that the World Revolution is inevitable, the October Revolution is the beginning of the World Revolution.

Then there is the usual fig leaf: if the enemies start World War III, then the end will come for them, and the proletarians will immediately rise up and win on a global scale.

> "If the imperialists decide to go crazy and try to start a new world war, their adventure will lead to the collapse of the entire system of world capitalism. This statement follows from the historical experience of the First and Second World Wars. The First World War ended with the victory of the socialist revolution in Russia. The Second World War led to the breakaway from capitalism of a number of countries in Europe and Asia."

"Only with the disappearance of the imperialist powers will attempts at military interventions and related attempts at restoring capitalism disappear. And the capitalist environment will disappear only as a result of socialist revolution in all the leading capitalist countries."

"The October Socialist Revolution is not only a revolution within national boundaries, but by its very nature it is an international revolution, part of the World Proletarian Revolution. It was with the victory of the Soviet revolution that the era of the World Proletarian Revolution began. The October Socialist Revolution opened the era of proletarian revolutions in the countries of capitalism, it opened the era of colonial anti-imperialist revolutions, which are part of the World Proletarian Revolution."

"The October Revolution was the beginning of the World Proletarian Revolution and the basis for its development."

4

Stalin did not throw words to the wind.

> "The former hopes that the 'Great War' would lead to the victory of the World Revolution and the creation of a world socialist system did not materialize. Therefore, while the people rejoiced in the victory, Stalin was solving a traditional Russian question: what to do? Should he prepare for a new world war or should he deal with internal problems while maintaining friendly relations with his allies in the anti-Hitler coalition? Being a true Marxist, Stalin did not agonize over the problem of choice for long. Since the main goal - the World Revolution - remained unchanged, the only way to it was through the Third World War, which was destined to be the last and decisive battle with imperialism."
>
> *(Dorogovoz I. The Great Fleet of the Country of the Soviets - Minsk: Harvest, 2003. - P. 140-141)*

On November 27, 1945, Stalin signed a top secret decree "On the Ten-Year Plan for Military Shipbuilding for 1946-1955."

The plan included construction:

four heavy cruisers of the Stalingrad type (total displacement - 43,000 tons, main caliber - 9305-mm guns, speed - 34 knots);

30 light cruisers of the Sverdlov type (total displacement - 16300 tons, main caliber 12-152 mm guns, speed - 33 knots);

188 destroyers;

177 patrol ships;

367 submarines;

18 marine monitors;

36 naval gunboats;

345 large submarine hunters; 600 small submarine
hunters; 736 minesweepers;
828 torpedo boats;
195 landing craft.

> "In a country where famine reigned in many parts of the country, tens of millions of people lived in dugouts, and women played the role of draft animals in villages, it was necessary to build 3,524 combat units."
>
> *(Dorogovoz I. The Great Fleet of the Country of Soviets - Minsk: Harvest, 2003. - P. 154)*

That's not all.

> "The original version of the program envisaged the construction of 1,200 submarines between 1950 and 1965."
>
> *(Chervona Zvezda. - 1996. - April 11)*

The creation of military aviation was no less ambitious. Stalin decided to form one hundred new aviation divisions of front-line bombers in addition to the existing ones (Military History Journal. - 1992. - No. 10).

The frontline bomber division consists of 102 combat aircraft (93 IL-28 and 9 IL-28R).

One hundred new aviation divisions are only frontline bombers, and there are also strategic ones. The actions of need to be covered by an appropriate number of fighters. In addition, while deploying a hundred new frontline bomber divisions and a corresponding number of fighter divisions, it is necessary to increase the number of attack aircraft and reconnaissance aircraft,

transport aircraft... and build thousands of airfields, open new flight and technical schools.

However, it was not aviation and the navy that were Stalin's main trump cards.

The main emphasis is on the creation of nuclear weapons and means of their delivery.

Comrade Stalin did not forget his favorite ground forces. We will get to them.

KEY POINT

After the Second World War, the views of Stalin and his closest students and associates on the way forward for the country and the world differed significantly.

Many members of the Politburo believed that the main efforts should be directed not to preparing for World War III and the World Revolution, but to solving the country's internal problems.

Apart from Stalin himself, only Khrushchev was the only member of the Politburo who defended the course for World War III and the World Revolution. But he had disagreements with Stalin over another issue.

Khrushchev believed that the economic problems of the Soviet Union could be solved by selling non-renewable natural resources, i.e., by laying a pipe and pumping oil to Europe!

Stalin responded in a Stalinist way, saying that it was time to trade resources - to trade with the Motherland.

Chapter 4

1

It's a stifling, park-like summer of 1952. At the border, the clouds are gloomy. And over Moscow - not a single one. Dust, stuffiness. At night, all Moscow windows are open. I wish it would thunder! There is still no cleansing torrential downpour that the exhausted capital is waiting for.

Comrade Stalin locked himself in his dacha in Volynske.

Comrade Stalin does not receive anyone.

Comrade Stalin is planning something, preparing something.

And it is absolutely clear to anyone who can think what Comrade Stalin wants.

And in the Kremlin, a conspiracy against Comrade Stalin is ripening.

The country's top leaders, Stalin's loyal disciples and associates, Beria, Malenkov, Khrushchev, Bulganin, Mikoyan, Molotov, Voroshilov, and Andreev, united against the Leader of the Nations.

For more than three decades, the country called the USSR has been a severe economic crisis.

Capitalists had crises of overproduction from time to time. In these crises, farmers poured milk onto the ground, slaughtered cows, covered their carcasses with bleach, and burned grain because they had nowhere else to put it. Progressive filmmakers filmed this barbarism and showed it in all theaters around the world before the screenings.

We did not and could not have such a thing. We have a socialist economy. We had a chronic crisis of underproduction. We had nothing to feed the country with.

And all these decades, our leaders have been looking for the cause of this situation. In the early years, everything was clear: the devastation after the civil war.

Later it turned out that the kulaks were hiding their bread, not wanting to sell it. (Why not? They didn't need the money?) The kulaks were exterminated. Millions of them. But it didn't get any better.

Suddenly, with all the crystal clarity, it turns out that pests are the problem. Pests were searched for everywhere, caught, tried, imprisoned, and shot. Again, by the millions. It was not getting any better.

Then came the war. Famine after the war, and the reason for it is devastation.

The year 1952 has come. Seven years after the war, and the country could not feed itself. Something had to be changed dramatically.

Comrade Stalin therefore decided to replace the entire top leadership of the country.

And so the entire top leadership of the country decided to replace Comrade Stalin.

2

But toppling Stalin from the top is not easy. Stalin is the General Secretary of the Communist Party. This has been his main position for thirty years. This position is the top of a stable and powerful vertical of power.

Stalin's opponents had a fairly simple option: it was perfectly legal not to elect Stalin to this most important position in the Soviet Union at the next party congress.

Stalin knew that he was in danger from various directions, including this: the next party congress could retire him with farewell speeches and a flurry of applause. Therefore, Stalin, in violation of the Statute, did not convene congresses for thirteen years, missing four terms.

According to the Party's Charter, Central Committee plenums were to be held at least once every three months. Comrade Stalin also regularly ignored this rule, not convening plenums for years, missing dozens of deadlines.

On August 5, 1952, members of the Politburo, against Stalin's will, convened a plenum of the Central Committee, which decided to convene the XIX Congress of the CPSU (B) urgently (in two months).

The pretext was quite good: The party's charter was outdated, and a new one needed to be adopted, which, among other things, provided for party congresses to be held not only by decision of the party's higher bodies but also at the request of grassroots party organizations.

In other words, it does not matter whether Comrade Stalin wants to convene party congresses or not, congresses can be held without the permission and approval of the Leader, contrary to his plans and intentions. So to speak, at the numerous requests of the workers.

This provision of the new Charter was anti-Stalinist. Personally

anti-Stalinist!

Any lower party organizations were strongly discouraged from taking the initiative either before or after the new Statute came into effect. Especially in matters of this level of importance. The right to demand the convening of a party congress, which was guaranteed by the new Statute, was later exercised by no party organization for decades

took advantage of it. No party secretary, whether high or low rank, would have thought of doing anything on their own initiative without a command from above or demanding something from higher ups.

General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Comrade Stalin.

At the upcoming XIX Congress, which was scheduled to open on October 5, 1952, it was proposed that the name of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) be replaced by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU).

The Politburo was also to change its name and continue to be called the Presidium of the Central Committee. Many other innovations were proposed.

The trick was that one small detail was lost in the verbosity of the official debate over the new Statute. The Statute, drafted by Stalin's cunning disciples and associates, left out the position of the Secretary General of the Central Committee.

It should be noted that the position was not abolished, no one canceled it, but simply did not mention it.

The congress was assembled. It proclaimed grandiose plans to move by seven-mile steps into a brighter tomorrow and to improve the lives of workers in every way possible. The Congress voted unanimously for the new Statute, regardless of whether or not Stalin had been deprived of his top post.

The delegates did not even realize that they were participating in a coup d'état.

Could Stalin have resigned himself? . Only not him.

3

The following facts show that the congress was quite unusual.

First. The transcript of the 19th Congress of the CPSU has not been declassified even after 60 years.

There are pictures, there is a chronicle: the meeting room, the rostrum, and four stenographers right in front of it and a little bit lower. But what those stenographers wrote down cannot be shown to anyone.

Second. It was customary to elect a new Central Committee on the last day of the Congress. The newly elected Central Committee immediately gathered for its first plenum to elect the top leadership, the Politburo of the Central Committee. After that, the final meeting of the congress was held, at which the list of the Politburo of the Central Committee was announced: those who would henceforth be in command.

This was not the case at the XIX Congress. On the last day, a new Central Committee was elected. But for some reason, the Central Committee did not elect the top leadership, which was now called the Presidium of the Central Committee.

The congress ended its work on October 14, 1952, and the delegates went home, not knowing who would now lead the party and the entire country. Only two days later, on October 16, a plenum was held.

The 19th Congress of the CPSU: Stalin speaks, and the rebels are on the rostrum (from left to right): Kaganovich, Malenkov, Beria, Bulganin, Khrushchev, Voroshilov, Molotov

Third. At the plenum, Comrade Stalin delivered a long speech (an hour and a half). This was Stalin's last speech in his life. An hour and a half is an extremely long time. Stalin knew how to be silent. Then suddenly he broke through. We just don't know what he was talking about. The transcript of that speech is secret 60 years later.

It is only known that Stalin publicly called Comrades Molotov and Voroshilov British spies at this plenum. (Their wives were already sitting in the basements of Lubyanka and meekly testifying as Stalin's investigators "gently" demanded of them.)

In the past, after being accused of espionage by Stalin, comrades Voroshilov and Molotov would have been dragged out of the courtroom in a flash. Then there would be a closed trial, the outcome of which was predetermined, and the firing squad.

You can do it without a trial.

Surprisingly, senior party officials did not respond to such accusations by the Genius of All Time.

During the election of the new Presidium of the Central Committee, Stalin recused comrades Andreev, Voroshilov, Kaganovich, Kosygin, Mikoyan, and Molotov.

In other words, Stalin demanded that the majority of the former Politburo, which had convened the XIX Anti-Stalinist Congress, be expelled from the pinnacles of power.

Surprisingly, the members of the Central Committee did not accept Stalin's recusal; they decided to re-elect all of these comrades to the top party leadership. In particular, full confidence was and in two "British spies". It was recognized that the "spies" were quite worthy to continue to lead the Soviet Union and its many younger brothers.

Stalin immediately .

The Politburo, which ruled the country until October 1952, consisted of eleven members (Stalin, Malenkov, Beria, Bulganin, Voroshilov, Kaganovich, Kosygin, Mikoyan, Molotov, Khrushchev, and Andreev) and one candidate (Shvernik). The list of leaders is not organized alphabetically, but by the position they held in the hierarchy.

Stalin proposed the following: since we now have a Presidium of the Central Committee instead of a Politburo, let's make this body more representative-not eleven members, but twenty-five!

The Politburo, not counting Stalin, had ten old members who had rebelled. However, two of them, Kosygin and Andreev, showed uncertainty and restraint.

Stalin decided to inject fresh blood into the new supreme governing body. In this case, the anti-Stalinist majority would be diluted and become a minority.

And Stalin proposed to increase the number of candidates from one to eleven!

So, there were twelve members and candidates, but there should have been thirty-six!

The total increase is exactly three times!

For every old member and candidate, there are two newcomers.

The trick is proven. All the great tyrants used this trick: Genghis Khan, Louis XI, Ivan the Terrible, Peter the Great, Mao Tse-tung.

The goal of the trick is to bring the unborn closer to you in order to bring down the arrogance of the born. If necessary, the hands of the young guard will strangle the old guard.

Comrade Stalin skillfully used this technique.

In 1922, when Stalin became General Secretary, the Central Committee consisted of 27 members and 19 candidates. 1925, the Central Committee had 63 members and 43 candidates. Stalin diluted the highest organs of party power with his nominees, turning the old guard into a minority.

4

This tactics Stalin used not only against top leadership, but also against the entire Communist Party.

After receiving the post of Secretary General of the Central Committee, Stalin simultaneously accomplished three important things in the early 1920s.

First of all, he removed Lenin from power, isolated him from contact with the outside world.

Secondly, he declared Lenin great, outstanding, genius.

Thirdly, by declaring Lenin sinless and inflating the cult of Lenin, Stalin was cautiously but persistently and steadily mastering the post of high priest of the new cult, the main interpreter of Leninism, and a fighter for the purity of Lenin's teachings.

Lenin spoke and wrote a lot, and even a lot more. You can support with Lenin's quotes. Stalin sculpted the cult of Lenin's personality in order to obtain the most powerful weapon in the struggle for power.

At the time of the Communist seizure of power, Trotsky was superior to Lenin in position. During the Civil War, Trotsky was equal in authority to Lenin. After Lenin was removed from power and isolated, Trotsky considered himself the leader of the Soviet Union and the World Revolution. The country sang with one voice:

> Comrade Trotsky with a
> detachment of naval officers
> We will be led to the battle to the death!

Trotsky was eloquent. Trotsky spoke with his ideas and on his own behalf: "I think so," "I approve this," "I reject this."

In those years, no one sang songs about Stalin. Few people outside the Communist Party had heard of him. Stalin did not speak on his own behalf even in a narrow circle of leaders. He was more cunning.

He acted differently: This is how the great Lenin teaches!

5

Comrade Stalin helped Comrade Lenin find a direct and short route to the afterlife. The late leader, of course, could not be replaced, but Comrade Stalin also found a way to somehow compensate for the irreparable loss. Immediately after Lenin's death, Stalin announced the so-called Lenin draft into the Communist Party: instead of one Lenin , we will accept into the party 200 thousand advanced "workers from the machine!"

Following Lenin's (and, in fact, Stalin's) call, careerists rushed to join the party. Those who had been in no hurry to join any camp during the revolution and the Civil War, who had been in no hurry with their choice, rushed to join. Now that it was finally clear that the Bolsheviks had gained the upper hand, the most agile of those who were popularly called "workers from under the machine," risking nothing, rushed to the ranks of the Communists in order to enjoy the sweet fruits of their victories.

They were all for Stalin. Only he opened the way to power for them. He was the only one they supported.

Having diluted the ranks of the fighters with uneducated and unprincipled new recruits from the career front, relying on their unconditional support, Stalin dealt with Trotsky, the main contender for power, the following year.

6

Almost three decades have passed since those old days, and in October 1952 Comrade Stalin repeated his favorite trick: he proposed to dilute the ranks of the old fighters by putting a fresh herd into power.

Stalin's proposal to triple the number of members and candidates for the top party leadership was accepted.

And how can you not accept it?

On the one hand, Comrade Stalin himself called the young to the supreme power.

On the other hand, the pressure from below was too powerful. Young leaders were eager to get to the top. And behind each of the new nominees was his team. If the leader of a group rises, he drags his entire team with him. Therefore, the team pushes their leader up, climbing after him.

And so, next to Voroshilov, Molotov, and Kaganovich, who had been rooted in the Kremlin since the first years of communist rule, the now unknown Andrianov and Chesnokov, Ignatov and Ignatiev, Puzanov and Korotchenko, Pegov and Yudin, Kabanov and Zverev, Melnikov and Mikhailov settled on the Kremlin heights.

Among them were those who would shine in a decade: Brezhnev, Kuusinen, Suslov.

However, this time the list of the new party leadership was published alphabetically.

And Comrade Stalin was on the general list of members of the Presidium of the Central Committee in 20th place out of 25!

However, in the last years of Stalin's rule, the leaders were listed not alphabetically, but by their position in the system of power. Why the sudden departure from the established order?

This is because in those days, the struggle was fought with varying success not only for every phrase and every word, but also for every letter. In one case, Stalin won, and his pro-statist position on increasing the composition of the highest party bodies was adopted. In the other, an anti-Stalinist group won, and the list of leaders was published in alphabetical order,

relegating Comrade Stalin to the ranks of the Puzanovs, Pegovs, and Chesnokovs.

Stalin's trick of using nominees for higher authorities was only partially successful.

The old guard remained a close-knit group, realizing that if they lost, they would all face the fate of Zinoviev and Kamenev, Trotsky and Bukharin, Yagoda, Yezhov, and Tukhachevsky-a bullet to the back of the head or an ice pick to the skull.

And the new fighters acted on the principle of a loose line, caring only about how to survive the battle, how not to accidentally elbow someone.

7

The trick of expanding the leadership did not give Stalin a decisive advantage, and then he struck with almost lethal force. On November 5, 1952, just three weeks after the election of the new Central Committee, Stalin realized that this option was not working and ordered the Interior Ministry to arrest the doctors of all the members of the top leadership who had tried to rebel.

It was easy to predict the further development of events: in Stalin's torture chambers, the arrested doctors would confess to working for British intelligence, after which Stalin's opponents-all those Khrushchevs and Mikoyans, Voroshilovs and Molotovs who had been treated by spy doctors-would be tied up and charged with letting down their guard. Stalin had already accused some of the leaders of espionage. Now we had to wait for loud revelations and harsh sentences.

The case of the Kremlin doctors was promoted decisively and quickly. The beginning of the trial was inevitably approaching, during which the villainous doctors would have to confess to their espionage, subversion, and malicious activities.

In parallel, and as if unrelated to the doctors' case, the vigilant authorities, on Stalin's order, began a massive roundup of relatives, friends, and subordinates of Khrushchev, Malenkov, Voroshilov, and Kaganovich on January 5, 1953. Beria's entourage was particularly targeted. His protégés in the Caucasus were bundled up like radishes.

The circle was rapidly narrowing. The old Kremlin guard would not be free for long.

Nevertheless, the most central members of the supreme leadership-Beria, Malenkov, Bulganin, and Khrushchev- went to Stalin's dacha with a palm branch: "We were wrong, you were wrong, let's make peace!"

However, it should be remembered that Stalin's closest aides and bodyguards had already been killed. Stalin's cunning Politburo associates had long been planting relevant information on the Leader, weakening the ranks of Stalin's fighters with the hands of Stalin himself.

As early as April 1952, Stalin removed Lieutenant General Vlasik, the chief of his bodyguards for the past two decades, from the post of head of the Main Directorate of the MGB.

In November 1952, Stalin dismissed Lieutenant General Poskriobyshev, his personal secretary for the past thirty years. Among other things, Poskrebyshev was the second highest ranking person in Stalin's personal intelligence service, after himself.

This allowed the four Stalinist guests who came to make peace to fulfill their mission.

They talked to Stalin and left. And Stalin was

left alone.

After that, no one saw Stalin in their minds again. The guards became worried only before lunch the next day: Stalin did not come out for breakfast and did not come out until lunch. They raised the alarm. Beria, Malenkov, Bulganin, and Khrushchev arrived at the dacha and found Comrade Stalin unconscious. They ordered Stalin not to be disturbed, not to call a doctor.

A day later, it was announced to the country and the world that Comrade Stalin was ill.

Only then did they call the doctors.

Of course, not ordinary doctors, but those who were needed in this situation.

KEY POINT

If we take a quick glance at the last two centuries of Russian history, we will be surprised to find a variety of political conspiracies.

Paul I was strangled in his bedroom with a silver officer's scarf. According to some reports, he was killed with a heavy snuff box, wrapped in a towel and applied to the imperial head. These details do not exclude each other. However, in this case, the main thing is not how Emperor Paul was killed, but that he died as a result of a conspiracy.

If he had not been killed, the history of our country, the history of Europe and the whole world would have been completely different. I'm not saying better or worse. I am saying: different. For example, if he had remained alive, there would have been no Bonaparte's invasion of Russia. This, in turn, would have had many consequences for both France and Great Britain, and with them, for the whole world.

There is a version according to which Paul's eldest son was aware of the conspirators' plans but did not interfere with them. After his father's death, he ascended the throne and became Alexander I.

The death of Alexander I is shrouded in legends and mysteries. There are many dark moments in this death. It was the signal for the beginning of a rebellion. The conspiracy was being prepared among the ruined scoundrels, later called the Decembrists. In their circle, they uttered pompous phrases about freedom, equality, and brotherhood. But this is exactly how the Jacobin dictatorship also began: pompous phrases that were instantly replaced by the guillotine on the Consent Square and the public beheading of thousands of heads.

What the so-called Decembrists planned and conceived led them down the same slippery slope. The first point of their program was the establishment of a dictatorship, of course, with the noble goal of restoring order. They had already decided who would be the dictator.

All of them would have ended up like the head of the Jacobins, Robespierre. First, Robespierre slaughtered all his associates, then he himself fell into the arms of Mother Guillotine. If the Decembrists' plan had succeeded, if all the conditions had been met, our history would have been completely different. However, the rebellion on Senate Square was suppressed by cannon fire. This was decided by Alexander's youngest son, who became Nicholas I.

Nicholas I ruled for a long time, but he died somehow too quickly.

He was replaced by Alexander II, whom the conspirators were really hunting. They even organized an explosion in the Winter Palace. After several assassination attempts, Alexander was killed by a bomb on the streets of St. Petersburg.

Alexander III ascended to the throne, dying in the prime of his life as a victim of medical murder.

A full-scale terrorist war was unleashed against his son Nicholas II. The conspirators killed ministers and relatives of the tsar. They accused and killed Rasputin. Nicholas himself was dethroned as a result of a conspiracy among the upper aristocracy and generals. I am not at all insisting that we are somehow special. It's enough to shake the dust off the pages of history and you can see the pictures of a conspiracy

marshals against Bonaparte, the assassination of American presidents in the theater or on the streets, a bomb in a briefcase under Hitler's desk.

Needless to say, the First World War, which resulted in the collapse of three powerful European empires, began with the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand by a group of conspirators.

The entire history of mankind is woven with political assassinations and conspiracies. And you don't have to start with Julius Caesar. Dig deeper.

However, someone persistently drives the idea into our heads that there are no conspiracies. Against all those who try to unravel the tangles of history, a tooth-crushing formula has been invented: conspiracy theory!

This formula is uttered with disgust and contempt: oh, here comes the conspiracy theory again. We are taught to believe that conspiracy theories are something frivolous, that only losers and charlatans investigate conspiracies, and that their discoveries have nothing to do with the study of history.

I've had people say to my face in disgust: "What you're writing is a conspiracy theory!"

And I am not proud. I answered: "Yes, and in this case, too, it's a conspiracy!"

If conspiracies are removed from human history, if they are not studied and unraveled, then there will be no history left.

Chapter 5

1

On the evening of March 5, 1953, a joint meeting of the plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, and the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet was convened.

The meeting was scheduled to start at 20:00, but was postponed to 20:40. There were intense whispers behind the scenes, and something was decided at the last minute.

Finally, the meeting opened. And it lasted exactly 10 minutes.

The writer Konstantin Simonov was a member of the CPSU Central Committee. Here is his story:

> "I had a feeling that the people who appeared from the back room, in the presidium, the old Politburo members, came out with some kind of hidden feeling that was not expressed outwardly, but was felt in them, a feeling of relief. It was somehow reflected in their faces... There was a feeling that there, in the presidium, people got rid of something that bothered them..."
>
> *(Through the Eyes of a Man of My Generation // Prapor. - 1988. № 3. - C. 107).*

Stalin's closest students and associates were indeed freed from a heavy burden. And at the same time, Comrade Stalin was relieved of the excessive burden of leadership. They announced that Comrade Stalin had been relieved of his duties as Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR. Comrade Malenkov was appointed Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Stalin was relieved of his duties as one of the secretaries of the Central Committee. And as we remember, he no longer the General Secretary since October 1952.

A new composition of the Presidium of the CPSU Central Committee was approved: eleven members (Stalin, Malenkov, Beria, Molotov, Voroshilov, Bulganin, Khrushchev, Kaganovich, Mikoyan, Saburov, Pervukhin) and four candidates (Bagirov, Melnikov, Ponamarenko, Shvernik).

2

The essence of what was happening was this: Stalin's idea of expanding the top leadership of the Communist Party was rejected. The top leadership would not have twenty-five members of the Presidium of the Central Committee, as Stalin had proposed in October 1952, but only eleven, as before.

And the personal composition is almost the same , including with two

"British spies," but without comrades Kosygin and Andreev, who had shown indecision and restraint in the struggle against Stalin. These comrades were not even among the candidates. Instead, they were replaced by Pervukhin and Saburov, who showed no indecision.

The entire herd of young leaders with whom Comrade Stalin tried to dilute the old guard was from the top. All the rootless people whom Stalin had brought into the top leadership were driven out decisively and quickly.

ИЗВЕСТИЯ СОВЕТОВ ДЕПУТАТОВ ТРУДЯЩИХСЯ СССР

9 МАРТА

С глубокой болью прощается советский народ со своим вождем и учителем, отцом и другом—Иосифом Виссарионовичем Сталиным. Коммунистическая партия, все трудящиеся еще теснее сплачивают свои ряды вокруг Сталинского Центрального Комитета и Советского Правительства, клянутся отдать все свои силы великому делу построения коммунизма.

ДЕЛО СТАЛИНА БЕССМЕРТНО!

Прощание народов с великим вождем

ГЛУБОКАЯ СКОРБЬ

At the coffin of the Leader (left row from left to right: Molotov, Voroshilov, Beria, Malenkov; right row from left to right: Mikoyan, Kaganovich, Khrushchev, Bulganin)

And this time, the list of leaders was compiled not alphabetically, but by their actual weight in the hierarchy.

And Stalin is the first!

So, he was recognized as the main one among all of them?

Yes, he was recognized as the leader. Stalin was unconscious. It was clear that consciousness would not return to him. So why not recognize him as great, outstanding, powerful, the only one, genius, sinless?

Although they recognized him, it was not

for long. For exactly one hour.

On March 5, 1953, at 9:50 p.m., Comrade Stalin died.

What a loss! What a light of reason has gone out! What a heart has stopped beating!

The list was published later, not in alphabetical order, but by place in the hierarchy, so that everyone would know who was next in line to Comrade Stalin and in what order.

3

I do not rule out that Stalin's death at 9:50 p.m. was just for announcement purposes.

It is quite possible that an hour earlier, at 8:50 p.m., loyal associates had elected the deceased leader to the top of the vertical, demonstrating love and devotion.

This is not my speculation.

> "Stalin was still alive, or it was believed that he was still alive".
>
> *(Simonov K. Through the eyes of a man of my generation // Prapor. - 1988. - No. 3. - P. 107)*

> "When Khrushchev reported to the plenum on the proposals of the Presidium of the Central Committee on measures to simplify the management of the state and candidates for senior government positions, it seemed as if Stalin no longer existed among the living, that he would never again be at the head of the party and state... Malenkov, Khrushchev, Beria, and Bulganin were in high spirits and probably knew better than anyone else about Stalin's imminent demise."
>
> *(Zhukov Georgy. Transcript of the October (1957) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and other documents. - Moscow: International Foundation "Democracy", 2001. - P. 621).*

Four years later, the Minister of Internal Affairs of the USSR, Nikolai Pavlovich Dudorov, reported to the plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU that "the manuscript on the formation of the Soviet government is dated March 4, 1953" (Transcript of the June plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU. CCCD. Fond 2. Description 1. Case file 257. Session one. June 22, 1957).

Thus, it is officially believed that Stalin died on March 5, 1953 at 21.50. But already on March 4, a list was drawn up in which the head of government

Malenkov is named not Stalin, but Malenkov.

4

The country was weeping for the Greatest Genius.

Factories, steamers and locomotives were humming.

The moment Stalin's coffin was brought into Lenin's mausoleum, everything in the country stopped: trains and icebreakers, electric trains and artillery tractors, bulldozers and dump trucks, tanks and armored personnel carriers, cruisers and excavators, conveyors and machines at factories, convoys of prisoners and camel caravans. Comrade Stalin's grief-stricken comrades made speeches and swore allegiance to their testaments.

At the next XXth Congress of the CPSU, the same leaders, loyal Stalinists, his disciples and followers, accomplices in all his crimes, executors of his darkest and most vile plans and designs, declared Stalin a villain of all time.

But it was extremely disadvantageous for Stalin's accusers, i.e., his disciples, nominees, and drinking buddies, to admit that they themselves had killed Stalin. It turned out that the whistleblowers were the same kind of wetbacks and urkas as the khans they killed.

That is why the legend of Stalin's natural death was launched to the masses.

The country cried for the Greatest Genius

Let's assume that this is . Suppose that Stalin died a natural death. This sometimes happens to some people.

But!

Stalin's death was decided in advance by his inner circle on August 5, 1952. On that day, members of the Politburo, clearly against Stalin's will, finally convened a plenum of the Central Committee after missing a dozen deadlines.

The plenum decided to convene the XIX Congress of the Communist Party in two months after, as we remember, four missed deadlines due to Stalin's fault.

The congress was convened to adopt a new party charter.

And the new Charter was adopted in order to remove Stalin from his main position, to remove Stalin from power.

Thus, the convening of the plenum in August 1952 was nothing more than the appointment of a tyrla, at which the right guys decided to bring charges against the pakhan.

However, it is not enough to remove him. When removing Stalin, he had to be neutralized. Otherwise, he would cut everyone down.

Therefore, his removal from power meant further isolation.

In fact, this is how Comrade Stalin himself once removed Comrade Lenin from power. And having removed him, he isolated him, declaring him ill.

And he did not allow Comrade Lenin to write for more than 15 minutes a day, taking care of his health.

I didn't give Comrade Lenin any newspapers so as not to disturb him.

Lenin was given only the newspaper Pravda, which was designed and printed in a single copy especially for him. So that he wouldn't worry.

These measures were not enough. Comrade Lenin managed to write and pass on to the right people a so-called "Letter to the Congress" in which he proposed that Comrade Stalin be removed from the post of Secretary General:

> "Comrade. "Comrade Stalin, having become general secretary, has concentrated immense power in his hands, and I am not sure whether he will always be able to use this power carefully enough... Therefore, I propose to the comrades to think about how to move Stalin from this place and appoint another person to this place."

Isolation did not help. Lenin continued to oppose Stalin. Comrade Stalin had to use the most radical method of isolation - to put Comrade Lenin in a gilded coffin.

Stalin's associates had the same logic of struggle. It was a battle in which no prisoners are taken. If we remove the Secretary General from the post, it means that after that there is isolation. Complete isolation.

But let's assume that Comrade Stalin died of natural causes in March 1953.

In this case, he died at the right time. Otherwise they would have killed him.

5

In March 1953, the seats in the government were distributed in the following order in terms of influence and political weight: Beria, Malenkov, Bulganin, Khrushchev.

It was believed that from now on, the main power would be concentrated not in the Central Committee of the Communist Party, but in the government of the Soviet Union.

Therefore, on March 4, 1953, at a time when Stalin was still alive or was officially considered so, Beria proposed that Malenkov be appointed head of the Soviet government, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

The proposal was unanimously adopted.

Malenkov immediately proposed to appoint Beria as his first deputy. addition, Marshal Beria headed the new Ministry of Internal Affairs, which was formed by the merger of two ministries: Internal Affairs and State Security. All of the country's punitive bodies were under a single leadership.

Loyal Stalinists: Beria, Khrushchev, Malenkov

Malenkov was officially in charge of the Soviet Union. But only officially. Beria preferred to be a little behind, to be as if second, in order to really be first.

The position of party secretary was not considered the most important at the time. Therefore, it was given to Khrushchev. And in vain. The Central Committee had previously decided on the most important issue, the personnel issue: whom to appoint and to what position.

"Personnel decide everything," Comrade Stalin once declared. That's right. Personnel make all the difference!

Khrushchev was given the responsibility for the distribution of personnel. Thus, the keys to power were given to him.

6

At the turn of 1952 and 1953, the struggle for power continued not only between Stalin and a group of Politburo members, but also within the group itself. Everyone tried to strengthen their positions by elbowing their comrades. Everyone was trying to bring whole clans of their supporters into power.

Most of all, it resembles a quiet, yet non-fighting, stampede on the stairs leading up. In this stampede, Nikita Khrushchev achieved the most significant success.

In February 1941, Khrushchev managed to sneak his friends Zhukov and Serov into the list of candidates for the Central Committee. After the war, Stalin, who had ousted Zhukov from the pinnacle of military power, expelled him from the list of Central Committee candidates.

In October 1952, Khrushchev nominated the disgraced Marshal Zhukov as a candidate for the Central Committee for the second time.

When Stalin suddenly fell ill, there was an intense and rapid bargaining among the party's top leaders: if your man takes this position, then this one will be mine, support me in this appointment, and I will support you in that.

On March 4, 1953, when Stalin was still alive or believed to be alive, Khrushchev managed to bargain for his clan the post of First Deputy Minister of Defense. All that remained was to determine which of his old friends to put in this position.

7

Moreover, the battle was not just for power, but also for how that power would be used. Each Kremlin leader had a clear idea of which way he would turn the country's reins if he managed to break through to the top and take the place of the deposed leader.

And the rudder had to be turned vigorously and quickly, the way the Titanic's helmsmen turned it to avoid hitting an iceberg. It was necessary to turn without delay and to the end, either in one direction or, again, to the end, in the other.

The Soviet Union did:

or change its economic system and become a normal country like the rest;

or change the economic system of all other countries.

Either we become like everyone else, or we make everyone else like us.

Most of the leaders, and Malenkov and Beria were the leaders among them, were inclined to turn to the right. To turn away from the path of socialism. Then we wouldn't have to change the whole world.

Malenkov and Beria had a powerful argument. We used to be able to count on the fact that proletarian revolutions in capitalist countries would win a new war. But nuclear weapons appeared. It made the Great War suicidal for everyone. You cannot win a nuclear war. So, we will not be able to drive the whole world into our rut. Therefore, our country should turn away from the path it took in 1917.

Only Comrade Khrushchev thought otherwise. We will not turn from the path of Trotsky-Lenin-Stalin! We will grind all the executioners to dust, because the time has come to return everything that our fierce enemy has taken away! Communism is the bright future of all mankind! If the capitalists start a new war, it will lead to the victory of the proletariat in many capitalist countries!

Khrushchev's trouble was that he was in a miserable minority. He was supported by Marshal of the Soviet Union Nikolai Bulganin. However, Bulganin's penchant for drinking the Russian national drink made him both a weak politician and an unreliable ally.

And then Khrushchev was approached by his old comrade-in-arms from pre-war times, the commander of the Ural Military District, Marshal of the Soviet Union Georgy Konstantinovich Zhukov: "It is possible to win a nuclear war! Give me the power! I will prove by example that victory in World War III is possible!"

On the same day, March 5, 1953, Marshal Zhukov, Commander of the Ural Military District, was appointed First Deputy Minister of Defense of the USSR. On March 16, 1953, this was officially announced.

KEY POINT

After Stalin's death, on Khrushchev's orders gossip was spread that no one had removed Stalin from the post of General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in October 1952. This position allegedly disappeared without a trace back in 934.

Khrushchev's interest is understandable. If we recognize that in October 1952 Stalin was removed from his main post, then the logic of the struggle that broke out between the Kremlin titans becomes clear:

convening a party congress against Stalin's will; approving an anti-Stalinist charter at the congress;

expanding the composition of the Presidium of the Central Committee at Stalin's suggestion to turn the majority of rebel leaders into a minority;

the arrest of doctors who treated Khrushchev, Beria, Bulganin, and Malenkov on Stalin's orders;

arrests of the country's top leaders on Stalin's orders;

The Leader's sudden "illness";

prohibition senior leaders of the country to allow doctors to the half-dead Stalin;

the high spirits of Beria, Malenkov, Bulganin, and Khrushchev they should have been portraying grief and sorrow.

And immediately after Stalin's death:

termination of the case of doctors arrested on Stalin's orders;

the dissolution of the Presidium of the Central Committee, expanded at Stalin's suggestion; the return of power to those who had removed Stalin from his chief post; and, finally, the overthrow of the Genius of All Time by his most loyal by his students and associates at the next XX Party Congress.

But if we spread the rumor that the post of Secretary General disappeared without a trace in 1934, then it turns out that there was not a single battle in the Kremlin since August 1952, no one removed Stalin from office, and Stalin did not fiercely resist, trying to remove him from power and crush his rebellious boyars. It turns out, then, that there was nothing to kill Stalin for.

There were plenty of voluntary and paid falsifiers in our country and abroad, as well as those whom Lenin called useful idiots. All of them, some out of stupidity and some for a fee, repeated the gossip spread by Khrushchev and continue to do so.

Let's confuse the "useful" and falsifiers with a question: "Where is the document?".

So, no one has ever presented a document that Stalin ceased to be Secretary General in 1934. There are rumors, but no confirmation.

Let's just imagine: was the position of Secretary General of the Communist Party of Ukraine, the most important position in a great country, abolished in such a way that no traces, documents, resolutions, testimonies, or reports of it have survived?

Could such an event have passed without a trace? Was it possible? The answer is no.

Chapter 6

1

But are there any documents that confirm that Stalin remained Secretary General after 1934?

There are such documents. And a lot of them.

How have the perverts of our history and falsifiers of all stripes managed to deceive the people for half a century?

The fact is that Stalin was a psychologist, he understood the importance of personal modesty, so he often signed documents simply as the secretary of the Central Committee. And in letters to daughter even called himself
"secretary".

However, at decisive moments in history, Stalin used his full title, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU(b).

Any researcher can see for themselves. I strongly recommend the Archive of the President of the Russian Federation, fond 93. If it is not possible to get behind those armored doors directly, one should use the capabilities of those who have access to secrets.

A historian is a scout of the past. This
is my credo.

I have been professing and defending this position for many years. I urge historians to improve their intelligence skills. Analyzing the situation is important, but so is infiltration and intelligence gathering. There is no need to break the safes that contain the secrets of history; it is enough to give a box of chocolates to a pretty girl has the key to this safe.

In military strategic intelligence, this is called recruitment. If you give a
box, you will get into the most inaccessible archives. And there is this!

2

For me, the date of June 22, 1941 is of the greatest interest. I have devoted my entire life to the study of this day, what preceded it and what followed it.

Here are some documents signed by Stalin before this date.

The top secret resolution of the USSR Council of People's Commissars and the Central Committee of the CPSU (b) No. 1724-733ts "On the Rate of the Main Command of the Armed Forces of the USSR" of June 23, 1941, bears only one signature:

"Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers,
General Secretary of the Central Committee of the (b), Stalin".

Let's assume for a moment that the post of Secretary General was abolished in 1934 and that Stalin was called simply the Secretary of the Central Committee from that time on.

After 1937-1938, i.e. after the Great Purge, Stalin's personal power became extremely strong compared to 1934.

If our assumption is correct, then before the Great Purge, the lavish title of General Secretary of the Central Committee corresponded to Stalin's enormous, yet limited, power.

And the modest title of Secretary of the Central Committee, which Stalin held during the preparation and implementation of the Great Purge, as well as after it, corresponded to unlimited, unprecedented power in history.

Now let's imagine: why would Stalin, on June 23, 1941, in the most terrible days of his life and the life of the empire he created, sign himself with a lavish, long-abolished title that corresponded to relatively insignificant power, instead of signing himself with a modest title that corresponded to unlimited power?

The top secret resolution of the USSR Council of People's Commissars and the Central Committee of the CPSU (b) "On the Headquarters of the General Command of the Armed Forces of the USSR" is a document of extraordinary importance. It is Stalin's decision about who would lead the war. Did Stalin really decide on June 23, 1941, to sign a title that would

Was he trying to make a joke? If I'm not mistaken, he was in no mood for jokes at the time.

So our assumption is wrong. No one canceled the title of Secretary General of the Central Committee in 1934.

Stalin simply used the weapons of his power cautiously and carefully, not wasting cannon shots on sparrows. The main title is only for the most important things, only as a last resort.

3

On the same day, June 23, 1941, the top secret resolution of the USSR Council of People's Commissars and the Central Committee of the (B№1734-743ts "On the Enactment of the Mobilization Plan for Ammunition" was signed by one signature again:

"Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers,
General Secretary of the Central Committee of the (b), Stalin".

Note that the numbers of the resolutions are double. Why? Because the power in the Soviet Union was duplicated.

Take a district, for example. There is a majestic building in the central square of a large village or small town. This is the executive committee. This is the state power to which the entire population of the district is subordinated.

Another building stands on the same central square of the district center. It is a little bigger, a little better. This is the district committee of the Communist Party. This committee controls and directs the work of the executive committee, i.e. the state authorities in the district.

Let's go higher. The regional center. The picture is the same. The regional executive committee, and next to it and above it, the regional committee. The executive committee is the state power in this region. But above it is the regional party committee. The first secretary of the regional committee commands the chairman of the executive committee, that is, the state power in the region, directing and controlling it.

The same is true in the regions: regional executive committees, and above them, regional party committees.

Even higher than a republic. Take Ukraine, for example. Ukraine was ruled by a government. And the government was led by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine.

And at the very top it was the same. The state was headed by the government, the Council of People's Commissars, and after the war, the Council of Ministers.

The head of government until May 1941 was Comrade Molotov.

Comrade Molotov was the second in command. The country and its people were subordinated to the Council of People's Commissars, but the government was under the

control and in full subordination to the Communist Party. Comrade Molotov is supervised by the General Secretary of the Central Committee, Comrade Stalin.

On May 5, 1941, Comrade Stalin became the head of not only the party but also the state, simultaneously serving as head of government.

The state authorities issue orders from the very top about what needs to be done. At the same time, the highest party authorities issue the same order to all lower party structures: this is what you should do.

Hence the two rooms.

The first is the number of a government document, the second is the number of a party document. And the letter "ts" does not require decoding, meaning "top secret."

Note the difference in the numbers of the two decrees signed by Stalin on the same day, June 23, 1941: 1724-733ts and 1734-743ts. Both government and party documents differ by exactly ten units.

This means that on June 23, 1941, at least a dozen joint resolutions were signed by the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR and the Central Committee of the CPSU (b).

To all those who claim that Stalin was not Secretary General after 1934, I recommend that you do not be stingy and buy a box of chocolates for the girl with the keys, go to the Presidential Archive of the Russian Federation and read the documents whose numbers are between the two I have mentioned.

For the sake of curiosity, you can also look through those signed by Stalin before and after June 23. Then the debate about whether or not Stalin was Secretary General after 1934 will subside by itself.

But if you don't want to go to the Presidential Archives, you can use open sources. They are quite enough. They have long been published and are available to everyone.

However, is it possible that Hitler struck and Comrade Stalin suddenly remembered his title, which had been abolished in 1934?

No, it is not. Stalin used the title of Secretary General even before the German attack. Let's not go far from the unfortunate date of June 22, 1941.

Here is the signature to the top secret Decree of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR and the Central Committee of the CPSU (b) No. 1711-724ts "On the camouflage painting of aircraft, runways, tents, and airfield structures" of June 19, 1941:

Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR

and the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the (b), Stalin.

This ruling alone is enough to make my entire theory, outlined in "Icebreaker", to be considered proven. And not even that. The title of this secret document and the signature under it alone are enough to end all icebreaker debates.

For two decades, until June 19, 1941, no one thought of painting airplanes, tents, and runways with camouflage colors. And then suddenly... The Central Committee decides... to paint tents. And the signature of Comrade Stalin.

Why?

If Comrade Stalin did not like the color of the tents, he could summon the People's Commissar for Defense, Marshal of the Soviet Union Tymoshenko, to the silver Persian carpet and express dissatisfaction. And let him give orders on when and how to paint the tents. At the same time, airplanes, airfield facilities, and .

Or you can not bother the People's Commissar of Defense with such a trifle. There is a Chief of the General Staff, Army General Zhukov, so he can tell him that the tents are the wrong color.

Why was Comrade Stalin himself suddenly concerned about the color of the tents? Why was the decree not secret but top secret?

Perhaps Comrade Stalin realized that they were about to attack? No, nothing of the sort. It is not for me to prove that Stalin did not believe in the possibility of a German attack. He did not believe it on June 19, or on June 20, or on June 21. And on June 22, when German bombs were falling on Soviet airfields, when German tanks were rolling over the first kilometers of Soviet land, Stalin still did not believe. All of this was proven without me.

On June 19, 1941, Stalin signed a top secret order to camouflage airfields and planes - this is war. Fast and inevitable.

But Stalin did not believe that Germany would start the war.

If, in Stalin's opinion, the inevitable war between Germany and the Soviet Union, which is to break out in the coming days, will not be started by Hitler and his generals, then who will?

If Hitler falls away, who is left?

4

Perhaps the documents I have cited are not enough for someone. Then I recommend that you find Resolution No. 1509-620ts/ov of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR and the Central Committee of the CPSU (b) of June 6, 1941. And see what signature is under that document.

This is an even more serious document. The stamp "t/s" stands for "top secret of special importance." This is the "Mobilization Plan for Ammunition and Cartridges," signed by Comrade Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

And why is the resolution on ammunition of June 6, 1941, classified as "ct/o", while the resolution on ammunition of June 23, 1941, signed by the same person who holds the same positions and titles, is classified only as "ct"?

Because, dear friends, the decree of June 6, 1941, spelled out who was to produce what ammunition, when, and in what quantities. And the resolution of June 23, 1941, is just an order to start implementing the previously launched plan. Without further specification of who, when, where, and how much.

And again, a reason to think. On May 5, 1941, Comrade Stalin, for some reason, also took over as head of the government of the Soviet Union. Stalin did not believe in a German attack, but his main concern May 6, 1941 was the production of wartime munitions.

I rely on documents from 1941 only because there is a lot of material about this period. Anyone who digs deeper into other years will get the same result.

The fact that Stalin was the General Secretary of the Communist Party both during and after the war is evidenced by an indirect but very convincing fact.

In the countries conquered by the Soviet Union during the war, state-building was carried out according to our model. So, where communists came to power after World War II, the chief communist had the title of Secretary General.

If we did not have this title, they would not have it either.

After Stalin's death, the chief communist of the Soviet Union was called the First Secretary. With a certain delay, this was also the name given to the chief communists in the countries under their control.

Example. Romania was a loyal ally of ours until the mid-1960s. Everything that we had, our Romanian brothers diligently copied. Until 1954, the Communist Party (the party had different names at different times) had seven general secretaries.

On September 13, 1953, the chief communist of the Soviet Union was called the First Secretary. Accordingly, in Romania, with a certain delay, on April 20, 1954, the chief communist was called the First Secretary. He was Gheorghe Apostol.

5

The most important proof that Stalin was Secretary General until October 1952 is, of course, the official biography of Stalin published during his lifetime.

The first edition was published in 1939. This is the peak of Stalin's greatness. The Great Purge of 1937-38 had just ended. In September 1939, Stalin annexed the territories of Western Ukraine and Western Belarus to the Soviet Union. And on December 21, 1939, Stalin turned 60 years old.

The 243-page "Short Biography" was published on this date.

Stalin edited this book personally. He checked every word. He crossed out praise that he did not like. He added new ones. And in this book, Stalin was named Secretary General.

In 1947, a second, corrected and supplemented edition was published, which was reprinted many times. I found one of the latest versions. It was signed for publication on Stalin's birthday, December 21, 1951. The edition is 8375000 copies.

Stalin personally edited the second edition, summoning the entire team of authors to his office at night. Drafts of the biography with Stalin's personal edits have long been made public and are available to any researcher. Many corrections and additions were made, but all of them in both editions and in millions of copies did not concern this paragraph:

> "On April 3, 1922, the plenum of the Central Committee of the Party, on Lenin's proposal, elected Stalin, Lenin's best and most faithful student and associate, as Secretary General of the Central Committee. Since then, Stalin has been working in this position without interruption."
>
> *(C. 88)*

By the way, these two sentences are also in the first edition of the Great Soviet Encyclopedia.

Stalin often signed documents, using title "Secretary of the Central Committee". On this basis, some concluded that he had ceased to be Secretary General.

However, Khrushchev, as the First Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, also quite often used this title, Secretary of the Central Committee. This was how he signed not only routine papers but also documents of exceptional importance.

This does not mean that Khrushchev ceased to be the First Secretary of the Central Committee.

6

Stalin's "Brief Biography" was prepared by the Marx-Engels-Lenin Institute under the Central Committee of the (b) and printed at the Zhdanov First Model Printing House.

Let's pay attention to the composition of the authors.

Aleksandrov Georgy Fedorovich - candidate for membership in the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks, member of the Central Committee Organizing Bureau, head of the Department of Agitation and Propaganda of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks, Doctor of Philosophy, Professor, Academician of the USSR Academy of Sciences, winner of the Stalin Prize of the first and second degrees, after Stalin's death - Minister of Culture of the USSR.

Mykhailo Romanovych Halaktion - before the war, a divisional commissar, during the war, a major general, editor-in-chief of the newspaper Chervona Zirka, after the war, head of the military department of Pravda.

Kruzhkov Volodymyr Semenovych - Doctor of Philosophy, Professor, Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, in 1944-1949 Director of the Marx-Engels-Lenin Institute at the Central Committee of the CPSU (b).

Mark Borisovich Mitin - Member of the Central Committee of the CPSU, Doctor of Philosophy, Professor, Academician of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Member of the Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences, winner of the Stalin Prize of the first degree, in 1939-1944 Director of the Marx-Engels-Lenin Institute at the Central Committee of the CPSU.

Mochalov Vasyl Dmytrovych - Deputy Director of the Marx-Engels-Lenin Institute at the Central Committee of the CPSU (b), Head of the Stalin Sector of the Institute.

Pospelov Petro Mykolaiovych - member of the Central Committee of the CPSU (1939-1971), editor-in-chief of Pravda (1940-1949), Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee (1953-1960), candidate for the Presidium of the CPSU Central Committee (1957-1961), Academician of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Hero of Socialist Labor, winner of the Stalin Prize of the first degree.

Would any of these responsible comrades dare to distort the Great Biography?

And if one of them did decide to do so, he would immediately be strangled by his comrades-in-arms, saving their own lives from the punitive hand of the angry proletariat.

And why do they need to put their heads and other parts of their bodies on the line, inventing things that are not true?

And if they made something up, the Editor-in-Chief would correct them.

All of them at once. He knew how.

7

After Stalin's death, respected official sources reported when Stalin was stripped of his title of Secretary General.

"Encyclopedic Dictionary (VRE. - Moscow, 1955, - Vol. 3. - P. 310):

> "On April 3, 1922, the Central Committee Plenum, on Lenin's proposal, elected Stalin General Secretary of the Party Central Committee; he served in this position until October 1952, and then was Secretary of the Central Committee until the end of his life."

The Great Soviet Encyclopedia (2nd ed., 1956. - Vol. 40) reports on Stalin:

> "In April 1922, at the Central Committee Plenum, S. was elected Secretary General of the Central Committee and held this position for over 30 years."

There are two points of exceptional importance in this sentence.

The first is more than 30 years.

30 years as Secretary General - April 3, 1952.

So, even after that, Stalin remained in office.

The second point is over 30 years, but it does not say that until his death.

Why, until 1956, did official sources report that Stalin was removed in October 1952, and later this issue was simply ?

Everything is simple here. After his death, Stalin remained a great, brilliant, sinless, eternally living leader and teacher. Your humble servant of a young age, along with everyone else, shouted songs of this nature:

We are faithful to the covenant of Lenin and Stalin.
The Communist Party of the country calls all
Soviet peoples to the feat.

This in 1954 and 1955.

Stalin remained great and holy, so most citizens did not suspect his unnatural death. Therefore, there was no need to conceal the fact that Stalin was removed from office in October 1952. Therefore, the Great Soviet Encyclopedia, published by the official authorities, reported when Stalin ceased to be the Secretary General.

In 1956, however, Khrushchev portrayed Stalin as the spawn of hell at the 20th Congress of the CPSU, presenting himself as the main fighter against Stalinism. And then a logical connection arose: Comrade Khrushchev and other comrades hated Stalin during his lifetime, fought with him, opposed him, acted in opposition to him, and then removed him from office in October 1952.

And Stalin soon died...

Unaware citizens had logical questions: if the Kremlin leaders already understood the criminal nature of Stalinism, if they knew about the horrific atrocities, if they hated him, if they resisted him, if they fought him, if they removed him from his high position, he must have been ,
- and...

Why not?

It was here that the need to remove the traces of the murder arose.

It was here that the talk of Stalin's removal from office shortly before his death should have been stopped.

It was here that the editors of the Great Soviet Encyclopedia consigned their yesterday's revelations to oblivion.

A quarter of a century later, when the issue of succession to the throne in the Stalinist empire had lost all acuteness and relevance, it became possible to tell the truth:

> "After the end of the war, J. V. Stalin, as General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party and Chairman of the Councils of Ministers of the USSR. of the USSR, made a significant contribution to the development of the program of the post-war world order"

(Soviet military encyclopedia) - Moscow: Viyskovydav, 1979. - Volume 7. - P. 516).

This is an official publication of the Ministry of Defense of the USSR. It was signed by Marshal of the Soviet Union Mikhail Ogarkov, Admiral of the Soviet Union Navy Sergei Gorshkov, Chief Marshal of the Air Force Pavel Kutakhov, eight army generals, three colonels, and three lieutenants.

To finally dispel doubts, the writer Felix Chuev asked Vyacheslav Mikhailovich Molotov, a personal pensioner, a question: "When was Stalin removed from the top post?"

Molotov replied: "Stalin was removed from the post of General Secretary of the Central Committee in October 1952" (Chuev F. Molotov - semi-state ruler. - Moscow: Olma-Press, 2002. - P. 393).

KEY POINT

It is quite understandable why, in 1956, after the 20th Congress of the CPSU, Khrushchev created the legend that the position of Secretary General of the Central Committee had disappeared by itself in 1934.

Khrushchev aimed to prove that Stalin had not been removed from this position in 1952, and therefore there was nothing to kill him for.

However, it is difficult to understand why there are still people today who repeat Khrushchev's fabrications, contrary to the published, all available official documents, which even after 1934 indicate Stalin's most important position as General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU(b).

Question: If Stalin was the General Secretary of the Party Central Committee before and during the war, could he have lost this title after 1941?

The answer is that he couldn't.

Because neither in 1941 nor in the following years until October 1952, in case anyone has forgotten, were any party congresses held. And without a party congress, no one could remove Stalin's main title from him.

Only the Congress could resolve this issue.

That is why Stalin was against convening congresses.

That is why his faithful disciples, companions, and associates were so persistent in their efforts to convene the congress, putting their lives on the line.

Section 7

1

So, in October 1952, Comrade Stalin was quietly, without any fuss, removed from his top post. But it was not so easy to deprive him of all power. Stalin responded with a series of powerful blows. The next and most terrible blow was to overthrow and sweep away from the political horizon the entire top leadership of the Soviet Union.

But Comrade Stalin suddenly fell ill and died immediately, mourned by widows, orphans, and associates from the top party leadership.

Stalin's legacy was very heavy. I would say unbearable.

Stalin managed to solve some of the problems.

During the war and immediately afterward, the Soviet Union saw a rapid increase in crime in general and banditry in particular. There was a shortage of everything in the country, from potatoes to bread, but there were plenty of weapons in the forests. Gather a gang, go out on the highway.

Banditry in Rostov, Odesa, Lviv, Kharkiv, and other cities was suppressed by using extreme measures. Army officers, disguised as civilians, pretended to be drunken passersby at night, and in the event of a meeting with robbers, shot them in the forehead without warning. This was practiced not only in Odesa, allegedly on Zhukov's orders, but also in all major cities on Stalin's orders.

Although there were much more complicated problems.

During the war, a civil war raged in the occupied territories of the Soviet Union. It covered Belarus, Ukraine, Crimea, the North Caucasus, the Kalmyk steppes, Smolensk, Pskov, and Bryansk regions. Entire peoples had to be pacified, expelled from their homeland to Kazakhstan and Siberia.

Germany was defeated, but the partisan war against the liberators continued in Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Ukraine, and Poland. Stalin had to carry out large-scale punitive operations to deal with this problem.

Millions died in the war. Every million dead was matched by a considerable number of cripples - deaf and blind, armless and legless,

burned and disfigured. In the first postwar years, suburban trains, train stations, squares, markets, cemeteries, and city parks in the Soviet Union were overrun with disabled beggars. The country could not provide them with housing, food, clothing, money, or medical care. All of them were dirty, lousy, rotten, stooped over, and always drunk. They are dressed in shabby military uniforms, with pilot's caps, officer's caps with broken visors, tank and flight helmets, and visorless helmets with the names of warships long since erased. On their chests were scratched orders with cracked enamel, mangled medals with frayed ribbons. They were singing songs about battles and fights:

> He was walking forward with an assault rifle in his
> hands - a sailor of the Black Sea Fleet...

They told terrible stories about the war. They begged for alms, which they immediately drank. They consumed denatured alcohol, polyturf, and similar chemical products.

With their vile appearance, they spoiled the holiday for the victorious people.

What to do with them?

Comrade Stalin had radical solutions to any problem. He also managed to cope with this scourge. The country was cleared of the disabled quite quickly.

However, not everywhere things were resolved as smoothly as in the case of defenseless disabled people. Some problems were only partially resolved.

During the war, millions of Soviet soldiers and officers were taken prisoner by Germany. Many died. But the survivors were in no hurry to return to their beloved homeland.

In addition, the Germans deported about five million citizens of the Soviet Union to work at German enterprises. The war was over, but these citizens did not want to go home.

They had to be returned by lies and force. Not all were returned. The most nimble ones evaded a meeting with the homeland that liberated Europe from the "brown plague." And even those who were forcibly returned did not have more patriotism.

At the time, people joked that Stalin made only two mistakes during the war.

First, I showed Ivan to Europe.

Second: I showed Ivan to Europe.

Millions of Soviet soldiers traveled to Germany and Austria, Poland and Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Finland, Hungary, and Romania, even Norway and Denmark. And everywhere people lived somehow differently from us. The poorest villages in war-torn Europe still better off than our collective farms.

Returning from the war, Soviet soldiers and officers cherished the hope that something would start to change now. Most of all, they hoped that the collective farms would be dissolved. But they were not dissolved. Therefore, things did not get better.

The main problem is the same: there is nothing to feed the country.

2

At one time, Churchill's confession appeared in our press[([2]),] alleging that during summit meetings, Churchill himself and all the others stood up when Stalin entered and stood at attention.

Your humble servant also fell victim to our native propaganda. I also repeated this stupidity in my books. But I checked the sources and made sure: Churchill did not say or write such things. I take back my words. I apologize for my stupidity.

The same fake text, fabricated by our propaganda, also praised Stalin: he allegedly took Russia with a plow and left it with an atomic bomb.

I did not for this nonsense, I did not repeat this stupidity.

Because I observed the life of Soviet collective farms from a fairly close distance. My grandfather, Vasyl Rezunov, worked all his life as a blacksmith at the Shevchenko collective farm in the Solonyansky district of the Dnipro region. The village of Sadovyi, where I sometimes visited my grandparents, experienced both cannibalism after collectivization and postwar cannibalism.

The stories of the men were surprisingly monotonous. The old women did not tell anything. They only cried when they talked about the times of the "great turning point," that is, collectivization, and the times of the "great victory over fascism."

Sad stories about collectivization and its results told by drunken men at sunset cannot be used as evidence. So let's turn to official sources.

"It was very difficult to get bread in 1947 after the famine of 1946."

(Transcript of the June plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. CCCD. Fond 2. Description 1. File 257. Evening session 26.
June 1957).

This was said by the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Moldova, Comrade Z. T. Serdyuk.

Had the Soviet Union not collapsed, the transcript would have remained secret forever. At that time, only party leaders with a rank no lower than the secretary of the regional committee, or the head of the regional state administration, to use modern terms, were allowed to read it. But even these figures were not allowed to read what was said at the plenum. A different version of history was created for them, muffled and powdered. The same phrase looked different for lower-ranking figures:

> "3 bread 1947 of the year after of the crop failure 1946 it was difficult".
>
> *(Emphasis added - V. S.)*

However, you can't rewrite our entire history, so sometimes pieces of truth appeared in it by mistake:

> "There was a terrible famine in Ukraine in 1946, and there were cases of cannibalism."
>
> *(Transcript of the June plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. CCCD. Fond 2. Description 1. File 257. Evening session 28.*
> *June 1957).*

These are the words of the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Comrade Nikita Khrushchev.

In 1946, Khrushchev was the master of Ukraine. He knew better. But if anyone is interested, there is enough documentary evidence on this issue to find without much difficulty.

The people expressed the same thing in shorter and simpler terms: Hammer and Sickle - Death and Famine.

3

But why the hunger?

And because the village was robbed for the sake of so-called industrialization in early 1930s, the most hardworking and active peasants were declared kulaks and destroyed as a class. Everyone else was forced into collective farms by terror and starvation in order to take bread, potatoes, and lard not from each individual, but from faceless, irresponsible collectives. From the crowd.

A peasant's work is creative. However, in collective farms, people had no incentive to work creatively.

If the state takes everything out of the collective farm barns, why work hard?

They didn't pay money in collective farms. Why should we pay? It was a common collective farm. The husband in the family does not pay money to his wife for washing the floor. A wife does not pay her husband for chopping wood. This was the way things were done, and the collective farm was without money. The collective farm counted the number of days worked. It was called a working day. The brigadier would draw a stick on your record and you would be credited for the day.

For those who work hard, the foreman could write down two sticks in one day, his drinking buddy could write down three sticks, and his beloved could write down five sticks. Then, at the end of the season, there was a settlement. After the deliveries to the state were completed, the collective farm had so many potatoes, so many cabbages, and so many carrots left. Some of it was saved for seeds, and the rest was divided. There were so many people in the collective farm. In total, everyone has so many labor days during the season. We divide the stocks by the total number of sticks credited. We get the result that one working day means so many potatoes, so many cabbage or beets. Then we distribute them to everyone, depending on their merits.

However, collective farms were created for the purpose of the state taking as much as it needed from the collective farm barns. And it did so according to its needs and plans. Therefore, by the end of the season, the sticks earned could mean nothing at all.

Our people are not stupid. They have long known a simple wisdom: whoever drives well gets loaded. So why should men care about the results of their work? Why work hard if you get an increase in your supply plan for the state?

There was no point in working. Not a single one. And even less to work well. The incentives were destroyed. That's why the village was making moonshine and getting drunk. The centuries-old work ethic of the village was rapidly eroding and eroding.

The people appreciated the collective farm system right away:

> Here's a hammer, here's a sickle,
> This is our Soviet coat of arms.
> You can reap or you can harvest,
> As a result, you have...

Khrushchev himself had to admit that was the case. In 1945, he visited his native Kalynivka. Here is his story. Of course, not for the press, but in a close circle, at the June 1957 plenum of the Central Committee.

> "Comrades, it is not enough to say that they lived badly. No horses, no carts, no bread. I asked Comrade Hrechko to help with horses (the army had a lot of trophy horses at the time). He gave me horses, carts, and halters. We brought the horses, but the collective farm would not accept them, because they needed to be looked after! And the collective farmers don't want to work on the collective farm. They only received sticks for their work. They would like the soldiers to take care of these horses... The collective farmers do not want to feed the horses, they are not interested in it. This was the situation not only in Kalynivka, but in our agriculture in general.
>
> I could see that they were sowing crops that did not yield a harvest. But what could I advise them? You have to sow everything in the plan. And what a plan! Geniuses sit in Moscow and write down how much spring wheat to sow, how much winter wheat, how much barley, how much beets. And they do this from top to bottom. Who.

could have deviated from this so-called plan? No one could. Anyone who changes the structure of sown areas will violate the directive."

(Transcript of the June plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. CCCD. Fond 2. Description 1. File 257. Evening session 28.
June 1957).

Khrushchev and cows

In the same speech at the Central Committee plenum in June 1957, Khrushchev admitted:

"The last of the collective farms was torn out, thus ruining agriculture... In 1951, the collective farmers ran away."

Comrade Mikoyan, member of the Presidium of the CPSU Central Committee:

> "We really sell meat only in Moscow and Leningrad, with severe problems in Donbas and the Urals, and intermittently in other places."
>
> *(RANI. Fond 2. Description 1. Folder 45. Transcript of the July plenary session. Evening session of July 3, 1953. Published: Visti TsKPCC. - 1991. - No. 1-2)*

So Churchill did not say or write that Stalin took Russia with a plow and left it with an atomic bomb. And if he had said such a stupid thing, he should have clarified this formula: he left it with the same plow.

4

Russia, which we lost, was somehow exporting bread, but the Soviet Union could not feed itself. This is one of the main achievements of the socialist mode of production and of comrades Trotsky, Sverdlov, Lenin, Stalin, Khrushchev, and others of this brotherhood.

The catastrophic consequences of the criminal anti-peasant, i.e. anti-people, policy of collectivization were superimposed on the equally catastrophic consequences of the war. Millions of workers did not return from the war. But even those who survived were in no hurry to return to their native collective farms. Workers were needed everywhere, and demobilized soldiers went to restore the mines of Donbas and the metallurgical plants of Dnipropetrovs'k, to clear the ruins of Stalingrad and Kyiv, Voronezh and Novorossiysk. People went to logging and construction of new factories in the Urals and Siberia, to Metrostroy in Moscow and Leningrad.

Anywhere but the collective farm.

Khrushchev on the field

Therefore, in the Soviet Union, after the end of World War II and the cessation of food supplies from the United States, famine naturally and inevitably occurred.

The leaders were sometimes forced to mention this in passing during their speeches.

Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, future head of the USSR government, former and future Politburo member A. Kosygin speaks about the first postwar years:

"At that time, I had to travel to a number of regions - Bashkiria, Kuibyshev, Moldova - due the spread of epidemics and famine. Many people were dying of hunger in a number of regions."

(Transcript of the June plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. CCCD. Fond 2. Description 1. File 257. Evening session 28.
June 1957)

At the same plenum, the Ambassador of the Soviet Union to the DPRK, Comrade A. M. Puzanov, spoke and said that in October 1952, at the XIX Congress OF THE CPSU it was was announced: "The grain problemhas been successfully, finally and irrevocably solved." Comrade Puzanov continues:

"It was not just a "varnishing" of reality. It was a grandiose deception of the party and the people!"

The former first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Karelian-Finnish SSR, and after the entire population of the republic fled to Finland, the first secretary of the Karelian regional committee, Comrade L. Lubennikov, adds:

"In Karelia, you couldn't get a liter of milk for a sick child... Potatoes and vegetables will soon be in abundance."

That is, under the leadership of our dear Nikita Sergeevich, we will raise agriculture! Soon there will even be enough potatoes, cabbage and cucumbers! However, today, four months before the 40th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, there is a shortage of potatoes in the country.

Comrade I. K. Lebedev, First Secretary of the Stavropol Regional Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, noted:

"In the Penza region, where I worked, in some villages, up to 40% of the houses were closed. People left, there was no one to work."

The leaders in their circle openly admitted that the Russian village was dying out under their wise leadership.

And with it, Russia.

KEY POINT

They criticize me: you write history, but your style is not scientific.

I agree. I'm not making excuses.

I am not a historian, I do not consider myself one of them. I'm just trying to deal with some of the unclear moments of our recent past. And if I manage to unearth something that may be of interest to the masses, I publish it.

Our story is extremely interesting.

But there are people who write this stunningly interesting story in an extremely boring way. And they are proud of it. And it stings my eyes.

I believe that people should know their history. Or at least be interested in it. So let someone explain to me why it is necessary to make it gray and boring, terrible, horrible, amazing, dazzling, sparkling?

We should write in such a way that the people's interest in their history does not fade. To our history. I try to write in a way that is clear and understandable. I don't always succeed, but I try. I would have written differently, I wish I could have done better.

Section 8

1

After the end of World War II, not only Stalin's domestic but also his entire foreign policy failed.

At the Potsdam Conference in the summer of 1945, Stalin demanded that Libya come under the control of the Soviet Union, i.e. Comrade Stalin was trying to gain colonial possessions in Africa. Libya meant bases on the Mediterranean Sea and oil. The West refused.

During the war, Red Army troops were deployed to Iran. Half of Iran went to Churchill, half to Stalin. The war was over, the British troops were preparing to return home, and Stalin decided to keep his troops there forever.

But they did not allow him to do so, threatening him with war.

When Stalin was leaving, he tried to cut off the oil-bearing piece of Iran by declaring it "Iranian Azerbaijan." However, nothing came of this either.

Stalin decided to take Greece and Turkey under his warm wing. The West responded by creating NATO: We will not give up Greece and Turkey.

Stalin, contrary to the Potsdam Accords, planned to take over West Berlin. To do this, starting on June 24, 1948, he organized a transport blockade of West Berlin. The West responded with an unprecedented air bridge. Food was delivered to West Berlin by air. And the fuel was there, on every boulevard, centuries-old linden trees. The residents of West Berlin cut the trees on the boulevards and in the parks for firewood, but they did not give up.

Stalin attacked South Korea. The West responded with comprehensive military assistance, then with the landing of powerful military contingents of the United States, Britain, and their allies on the Korean Peninsula. And South Korea survived.

Stalin tried to push the Communists into the governments of Italy and France. He succeeded in some ways. But only partially. As a result, he failed again.

Stalin planned to go to the Mediterranean. It didn't work out with Libya. Second option: to build Soviet naval bases

in Yugoslavia. But here, too, it was a bummer. Yugoslavia had fallen out of Soviet control.

On top of that, there was the Cold War.

2

Fellow scholars explain the cause of the Cold War: On March 5, 1946, Churchill gave a speech at Fulton.

Where is Fulton? Look on the map and you won't find it.

And who is Churchill? He is a former British prime minister who was finally removed from power.

It's a strange thing: the retired Churchill made a speech and the Cold War began.

It turns out that if he hadn't, there would have been no Cold War.

East Germans would not have fled to West Germany, and North Koreans would not have fled to South Korea. And border guards would not have been shooting them in the back.

And the Soviet Union would not have supported African princes who embarked on the path of socialism. And we would not have built nuclear submarines in incredible numbers. (By 1994, Russia had built 243 nuclear submarines, while all other countries in the world combined had built 221 (Krasnaya Zvezda. - 2001. - December 5).

In my opinion, the causes of the Cold War were not about someone making a speech. The reasons lay much deeper.

The Red Army liberated several Central European countries from "brown plague," but, having liberated them, they did not want to return home. Soon, in all the liberated countries, under the protection of Soviet tanks, the guys Comrade Stalin wanted came to power and socialist transformations.

But to prevent people from running away from the happiness imposed on them, the borders were closed with strong locks and bolts. And an order was given to the valiant border guards to shoot anyone who was running away from happiness.

In a provincial American town, Churchill, who had been removed from power, drew the attention of the esteemed public to the sad fact that "from Stettin on the Baltic to Trieste on the Adriatic, the Iron Curtain was lowered across the continent.

Churchill merely reported that in those countries where the Red Army had entered, small communist parties had somehow seized power and were seeking to "achieve totalitarian control throughout."

Which was quite true.

Therefore, it does not matter at all whether a certain Churchill gave a speech in a certain Fulton or not.

The only important thing is that the Soviet Union imposed a socialist system on the states conquered during World War II, i.e. an extremely inefficient economic system run either by criminals or by fools who were backed by criminals.

Socialism succeeded impose Poland and East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria. However, all of our classmates were ready to escape the friendly embrace at the first opportunity.

This opportunity was close and real. On December 21, 1949, all progressive humanity solemnly celebrated the 70th birthday of Comrade Stalin, the Great Genius of All Time.

There was hope that Comrade Stalin would not last forever. Well, three more years, five more... He had to finish his service to Humanity at some point.

3

And one day he was gone.

Those who plotted against Stalin were neither friends nor associates. They were mortal enemies of each other.

The main conspirators against Stalin were Beria, Malenkov, Bulganin, and Khrushchev.

But while Stalin was still alive, another conspiracy emerged within this conspiracy-Khrushchev and Bulganin against Beria.

We are told that Beria was also preparing to seize power. We cannot rule out this possibility. However, no one has yet provided evidence.

One thing is clear: by pushing yesterday's allies out of the way and eliminating them, each Kremlin leader simultaneously strengthened his own personnel positions. Comrade Khrushchev was the most successful in this endeavor.

On the day Stalin's death was announced, Khrushchev appointed Marshal Zhukov to the post of First Deputy Minister of Defense, having returned him from exile in the Urals.

Khrushchev himself was the leader of the Communist Party, and two of his old friends from the prewar period, Zhukov and Serov, served as first deputies. One in the Ministry of Defense and the other in the Ministry of the Interior.

Khrushchev's task was to raise both of them a notch.

And we had to hurry. Stalin's death gave the people hope for a better life. A wave of terrible uprisings swept through the Northern, Siberian, Ural, and Far Eastern camps. Cronies and spin doctors were caught and boiled in iron barrels. They poured water, lit a big fire, and cooked it like sturgeon soup. There was a threat that several uprisings would merge into one that could not be suppressed, and then hundreds of thousands or even millions of prisoners would break out from behind the barbed wire.

The leaders in the Kremlin faced the question: what to do?

By the way, in recent years there have been reports that the population of the Gulag at the time of Comrade Stalin's death was a miserable one and a half million prisoners. And the relevant documents are being published.

We will not argue with the documents. Let's just remember that at the time of Comrade Stalin's death, there was not just one gulag in our beloved homeland, where people breathe so freely, but eleven. Even eleven with a tail. With a very long tail.

The towers and fences of the Gulag still stand throughout Siberia

Here is a list of the main camp administrations that were independent of each other as of March 5, 1953:

Comrade I. I. Dolgikh, the Chief Director of the camps (Gulag);

Main Directorate of Railway Construction Camps (GULZHDS)
- Comrade O. A. Smolyaninov;

Comrade M. O. Dobrovolsky, the Chief Director of the Mining and Metallurgical Industry Camps (GULGMP);

Comrade A.M. Komarovsky, the General Directorate of Industrial Construction Camps (GULPS);

Main Directorate of Construction in the Far North (Dalstroy)
- Comrade I. L. Mitrakov;

Comrade M. M. Timofeev the Chief Director of the Forestry Industry Camps (GULLP);

Home management camps hydrotechnical Construction Camps (Glavgidrostroy) - Comrade Y. D. Rapoport;

Home management of the camps of construction of oil refineries (Glavspetsneftostroy) - Comrade V. O. Barabanov;

The Main Directorate of Mica Industry Camps (Glavsluda)
— Comrade I. O. Karasyov;

General Directorate of Asbestos Industry Camps (Glavazbest)
— Comrade A. P. Mityukov;

The Special Main Directorate (SGU) was headed by Comrade F. P. Kharitonov.

These main departments were joined by the Main Department for the Construction of Highways (GUSHOSDOR), which had its own camps. The GUSHOSDOR's labor force was not entirely from the camps, but only partially, or rather, mostly.

In addition to the main departments, there were separate departments that were not subordinate to the Gulag. Among them:

Comrade M.V. Kuznetsov was the head of the prison administration;

Director of the Department of Special Institutes - Comrade AP. Zavenyagin.

If all of this were to catch fire, if millions of prisoners were to break free, then the country would not be able to avoid a new civil war.

4

The four conspirators got rid of Stalin, but the question of what to do next split the coalition in two.

Soviet Marshal Beria and Lieutenant General Malenkov were calling to each other.

Marshal of the Soviet Union Bulganin and Lieutenant General Khrushchev — in the opposite direction.

Bulganin and, especially, Khrushchev were staunch supporters of preserving the cult of Stalin's personality.

Beria and Malenkov were fierce opponents. The day after Stalin's funeral, at a meeting of the Presidium of the Central Committee, Malenkov said:

"We consider it necessary to stop the practice of personality cult."

Let's not be under any illusions: these four and many thousands of lower-ranking officials were covered in people's blood up to their nostrils. Some of them, like Beria, shed a moderate amount of blood. Some, like Khrushchev, shed incomparably more. However, it was not about the amount of blood-all the leaders were covered in blood. It was about how the country could survive in the current situation.

Immediately after Stalin's death, a rapid departure from Stalin's practice of governing the country began. The process was led by Beria. Stalin had not yet been buried. The people, crying and screaming in millions, rushed to Red Square to say goodbye to the late leader, and Beria ordered on March 6, the day after Stalin's assassination, to prepare a government decision to transfer all the construction departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs to the jurisdiction of civilian ministries, and camps and colonies to the Ministry of Justice.

Beria destroyed the system of eleven gulags decisively and quickly.

On March 21, 1953, he sent a draft resolution to the government to stop work on twenty-three unnecessary "great construction projects of communism," namely: The Main Turkmen Canal, the Volga-Ural Gravity Canal, the Chum-Salekhard-Iharka "dead road," the Ust-Donets port, the Lower Don hydroelectric power station, and others. All these grandiose facilities were built by prisoners. All of them were not economically justified. All of them were harmful to the environment and to the people who built them.

On March 26, 1953, three weeks after Stalin's death, Beria sent a note to the Presidium of the CPSU Central Committee on an amnesty that was announced on May 9. As a result of this amnesty, 118,264 prisoners were released from prisons and camps, and investigative cases against 400,000 people were closed. It is said that there were many criminals among those released from the camps, which is why the crime rate in the country has increased.

There were many criminals, but among those released from the camps there were more innocents who were imprisoned for a joke about Stalin or for three ears of grain picked up in a field, which no one wanted anyway.

The crime rate increased. However, let's imagine what would happen if hundreds of thousands of prisoners broke out on their own, armed, and incited by their victories over the spinners.

However, it is not about numbers. Beria broke the entire structure of state planning. Prior to him, the State Planning Committee had drawn up grandiose projects that were to be carried out with forced labor. Accordingly, the required amount of labor was calculated. Then the punitive authorities received orders on how many criminals they had to catch and for how long they had to imprison in the zone. The orders were drawn up by republic, krai, oblast, and district. Each chief, from the Minister of the Interior to the district police officer, had to fulfill the plan. Therefore, were not only for "three ears of grain," but and for "theft of 200 meters of sewing material", i.e. for a spool of thread.

But there was order, the socialists say. No, comrades, there was no order. There was a total shortage of everything and long lines for soap and kerosene, matches, needles and thread, galoshes, and candles. Bonded slave labor is unproductive. That is why the country produced nothing but weapons. That's why people stole ears of grain from the very fields that allegedly belonged to them to save their children from starvation. The competent authorities did not sleep at night to catch those who picked up ears of grain on the collective farm, that is, on their own field. If the spikelets are not picked up, they will be pecked by sparrows, eaten by voles, or rot under the snow. And the aunts did not bring the "sewing material" from the factories from a good life.

Slave labor of prisoners was still used quite actively after Stalin, but the principle of staffing the camps changed: previously, the state needed to have a predetermined amount of free labor. And the more, the better. Beria broke this mechanism.

5

On April 4, 1953, Beria signed top secret order No. 0068, which demanded that torture rooms in prisons and camps be immediately eliminated, that physical coercion against arrestees be prohibited, and that all torture instruments be destroyed. The order warned that not only those MIA operatives who would continue to try to use physical coercion against arrested persons, but also their superiors would be brought to court.

On April 13, 1953, Beria sent a note to the Presidium of the CPSU Central Committee with a proposal to stop the practice of inflating the cult of the personality of leaders, in particular, not to bring portraits of senior leaders of the state and the party to demonstrations on holidays, especially those who were currently leading the country.

Thirteen volumes of Stalin's works were published during his lifetime. In May 1953, Beria proposed that the publication of Stalin's works be stopped. And it was stopped. The set of the next volume was destroyed.

Lavrenty Pavlovich Beria - the No. 1 person in the Soviet hierarchy after Stalin's death

On June 10, Pravda published an unsigned article in which the term "cult of personality," a new term for our propaganda, was first used. Stalin's name was not yet mentioned. However, everything was clear. Whose other cult has dominated and flourished in recent decades?

"Pravda condemned the cult of personality and pointed to those who would lead the country in the right direction: "The essence of our party's policy is set forth in the speeches of G.M. Malenkov, L.P. Beria and V.M. Molotov."

It was not Khrushchev who began to expose the cult of personality three years later at the XX Congress of the CPSU, but the newspaper Pravda three months after Stalin's death.

There is no doubt that Beria was the creator of the revelations. He was the master of the Soviet Union at that time. In the very first anti-Stalinist publication, the Pravda newspaper mentioned Beria's name among two other names. But Malenkov was under Beria's full control, and Molotov had been removed from the top roles for several years by then.

At the same time, the same article in the central organ of the Communist Party does not mention Khrushchev, although Khrushchev was the head of the Communist Party.

6

The main problem of the country was that people were running away from socialism. If there is no way to escape in peacetime, they will escape in war.

Beria remembered the summer of 1941, when Red Army soldiers surrendered without a fight in the hundreds of thousands and millions, abandoning perfectly serviceable tanks and planes by the thousands, guns and mortars by the tens of thousands, machine guns by the hundreds of thousands, ammunition, food, engineering equipment, fuel and lubricants by the millions of tons. In a vast country, there were no fools ready to die for collective farm slavery, party committees and mass executions, for the Gulag and hunger lines. In the summer of 1941, the soldiers and commanders of the Red Army did not consider the war to be either a great or a national war. The professional Red Army surrendered to the Germans almost without resistance. Almost in its . Only the reservists remained. And if not for the stupidity of Hitler and his great commandersthey would have surrendered as well.

Lavrenty Pavlovich Beria believed that in the event of a new war, the defeat of 1941 would inevitably be repeated. For the same reasons, there are no fools to fight for socialism. And if the new enemy is not as stupid as Hitler, the state will perish.

But even without the war, the Soviet Union and the countries it occupied were rapidly slipping into the abyss. In particular, from January 1951 to April 1953, 447,000 people fled from East Germany to West Germany alone.

On June 1, 1953, massive worker strikes swept through Czechoslovakia. Workers in Prague, Ostrava, and Bratislava went on strike. These protests spread like wildfire across the borders of the "brotherly countries of socialism" after Stalin's death. Poland was next in line. And there the fire could have been worse. It could have exploded.

Georgy Malenkov, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers

Beria believed that the Soviet Union should not interfere in the affairs of other nations, but rather should put its own house in order. To do this, both foreign and domestic policies had to be radically changed. Beria defined the main goal of the government as creating conditions under which people would work voluntarily, willingly, and conscientiously. In this case, the country would be rich and prosperous. In this case, the population will grow. In this case, life in our country will be attractive to the whole world, we will be looked up to and respected. And if war breaks out, our people will fight hard because they will have something to lose.

Malenkov was determined to get rid of the Stalinist legacy as soon as possible. During the war, on Stalin's instructions, he established a private relationship with British Prime Minister Churchill. Recalling their old friendship, Malenkov, immediately after Stalin's death, approached Churchill with a proposal to mediate between the USSR and the United States to end the war in Korea. Churchill agreed. Unofficial negotiations began and soon yielded a result: the war in Korea was stopped.

Malenkov took a decisive step in the issue of food supply. Under Stalin, a peasant had to pay for having a cow or a pig, apple trees or cherries in his garden, for growing

dill and cucumbers. Malenkov abolished predatory taxes on personal peasant property. He allowed household plots to increase !

And the people sang:

> And Comrade Malenkov.
> He gave us bread and pancakes.

Malenkov called for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from foreign territories, a reduction in exorbitant military spending, and an end to free military aid to Asian and African princes.

Malenkov's actions were by no means unilateral disarmament. Malenkov proposed withdrawing Soviet troops from Germany only if the US, UK, and French troops also left Germany, and Germany was declared a neutral and permanently disarmed state.

There no time for chatter.

7

Three months after Stalin's death, June 17, 1953, East Berlin rose up. The leadership of the so-called German Democratic Republic fled under the protection of Soviet troops. The uprising spread throughout East Germany, with strikes covering thirteen of the largest cities in East Germany, including Berlin, Leipzig, Magdeburg, and Rostock. Official historian M. Zenkovich reports:

> "East Germans' discontent was fueled from the outside. The five largest West German radio stations called on the population of the GDR to civil disobedience."
>
> *(Marshals and General Secretaries. - Smolensk: Rusich, 1998. - P. 289)*

I do not understand such statements at all. If five West German radio stations called for civil disobedience in East Germany, then we should turn on our ten radio stations at full capacity and call for civil disobedience in West Germany. And they will rise up! Wouldn't they?

And ten more radio stations would call the proletariat of France to arms! And it wouldn't hurt to rouse the American working class to a proletarian revolution!

But for some reason our agitators do not explain why, at the call of West German radio stations, the people of East Germany rose up against the government, while at the call of our radio stations the people of Finland and Germany, Great Britain and Canada do not oppose their governments.

Perhaps the radio stations did not have enough power?

KEY POINT

On March 5, 1946, Churchill gave a speech at Fulton. A lot of water has passed since then, but there are still people who stubbornly repeat that if Churchill had not made the speech, there would have been no Cold War.

But let's remember that exactly six months before Churchill's speech, on September 5, 1945, Ihor S. Guzenko, a cipher of the GRU diplomatic residency, sought political asylum in Canada. He took with him 109 documents, not a single one of which was secret, 88 of which were classified as "ss" - top secret, and 41 as "ss/ov" - top secret of special importance.

The Canadian authorities refused to believe the documents.

But when she checked and believed it, she wasn't the only one who shuddered.

It turned out that GRU agents had deeply penetrated the secrets of the Canadian government, British diplomacy and intelligence, and the American nuclear industry. The leaders of the Soviet Union made such correct speeches about peace and friendship, but during World War II they launched a real secret war against their allies - the United States, Great Britain, France, and Canada.

By the way, on July 24, 1945, during the Potsdam Conference, two weeks before the American atomic attack on Hiroshima, a month and a half before Ihor Huzenko's escape, US President Harry Truman informed Stalin that the United States possessed weapons of absolutely incredible power. Stalin did not pay attention to the statement and turned the conversation to another topic.

To this day, there are people who laugh at stupid Stalin. Stalin, in their opinion, did not understand the importance of the technological breakthrough in the field of the creation of atomic weapons. However, at that time
"Stupid" Stalin had already stolen all the necessary technical information with the raking paws of the GRU, which allowed him to create and test the first Soviet atomic bombs RDS-1 "Elena" and RDS-2 in 1949
"Lyudmila", to proceed with the creation of RDS-3 "Maria" and RDS-4 "Tatiana".

The secret war of the Soviet Union against its allies during the joint war against Nazi Germany is the Cold War.

However, if we do believe that it was not deeds but speeches that triggered the Cold War, it is worth mentioning that it was not only the retired Churchill who gave a speech in a provincial town. Speeches were also given by and other political figures,

vested with all the power of the state. And he made it not in a distant province, but in the capital.

His name is Joseph Stalin.

Place - Moscow, Bolshoi Theater. Date -

February 9, 1946.

This is almost a month before Churchill's appearance at Fulton.

Even the central body of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation has to admit that "Stalin's speech of February 9 was perceived in the West as a call for a new confrontation with capitalism" (Krasnaya Zvezda. - 2006. - March 11).

Stalin was by no means the first to call for confrontation.

The Cold War, in my opinion, began immediately after the Bolsheviks seized power in Petrograd. And it started with Trotsky's speech at the Second Congress of Soviets on October 26, 1917:

> "We place all our hope in the fact that our revolution will unleash a European revolution. If the revolted peoples of Europe do not crush imperialism, we will be crushed, that is certain. Either the Russian revolution will raise a whirlwind of struggle in the West, or the capitalists of all countries will strangle our revolution."
>
> *(Trotsky, L. Works. - Moscow - Leningrad, 1925. - VOL. 3. - PART 2. - P. 66)*

Trotsky was wrong. No capitalists strangled us.

We have taken responsibility for the fate of the entire world on our shoulders. With complete irresponsibility for the fate of our people and our country.

By fighting for the happiness of the peoples of Hungary and Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Germany, Angola, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Egypt, Chile and Vietnam, Korea, Romania, Algeria, Poland, Great Britain, Libya, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Albania, Lithuania, Iran, Turkey, Afghanistan and Argentina, we have undermined the vitality of our own country. Several generations have been working to the detriment of themselves.

And now our people, on the verge of extinction, have no choice but to be proud of their heroic past and celebrate their great victories.

Chapter 9

1

On June 18, 1953, Marshal Beria of the Soviet Union urgently arrived in East Berlin and ordered Colonel General Andrei Antonovich Grechko, Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet Group of Forces in Germany, to bring tanks to the streets.

The uprising was suppressed. Colonel-General Grechko, the same one who gave Khrushchev's collective farms trophy horses, was immediately promoted to the rank of army general. He would soon become Marshal of the Soviet Union and twice Hero of the Soviet Union. Grechko went through the entire war, but he did not become a hero in the war. But in peacetime, he became a hero twice!

Grechko, on Beria's orders, stifled the popular protest, but Beria returned to Moscow and said that this would not work next time, and that another way to resolve the German question must be found. The construction of socialism in Germany should be abandoned.

Beria proposed Germany to unite on Malenkov's terms .
That is, to make it neutral.

He was right!

The attempt to build socialism in East Germany still failed. Socialism was built there for exactly 40 years. It collapsed in one day.

Khrushchev, Bulganin, and Zhukov did not like Beria's proposal to abandon the construction of socialism in East Germany. They sent Stalin to the next world, but this did not mean that they decided to turn away from the Stalinist path.

In their foreign policy, Bulganin, Khrushchev, and Zhukov stood firmly on the side of Stalinism. They were not going to give up East Germany.

Beria returned from Berlin and reported that socialism would not work in Germany. The population of East Germany is voting with their feet, fleeing to West Germany. Those who remain realize that life in West Germany is better than in East Germany. Sooner or later, the Soviet Army will have to leave. It is better to leave now, provided that the Americans leave, than to wait for the moment when we are forced to leave and they stay. It is better to leave now, having bargained for Germany's eternal neutrality.

For a long time, Comrade Beria was not allowed to preach these ideas.

Nikita Khrushchev, and he was a cunning man, managed to persuade Malenkov to speak out against Beria. How he did it, I don't know. Malenkov and Beria held almost identical views on the ways of further development of the country and were friendly with each other.

Khrushchev offered Malenkov something.

Malenkov agreed.

2

The uprising в Berlin broke out 17 of June 1953 of 1953.Beria suppressed it decisively and quickly. On June 25, he returned to Moscow.
On June 26, Soviet Union Marshal Beria was arrested in the Kremlin.

Beria, Beria
He withdrew from the trust.
And Comrade Malenkov gave
him kicks.

You can't take words out of a song. Malenkov was among the participants in the plot against Beria. He would later regret it.

Soon after, Beria's closest associates, Merkulov, Vladzimirsky, Kobulov, Meshik, Goglidze, and Dekanozov, were arrested.

The group to capture Marshal Beria was personally led by Marshal Zhukov. It was impossible to imprison the arrested Beria. All prisons were run by his subordinates.

However, the army has its own system of detention of detainees - brig and disciplinary (during the war - penal) battalions.

Beria spent the first night under arrest in the Moscow garrison brig.

However, the head of the brig has no right to accept arrested persons without a proper document. The arresting officer is required to fill out a document called the "Note on Arrest". This document indicates the date, position of the arrested person, military rank, surname, name and patronymic, who arrested him and when, the reason for the arrest, for how long he was arrested, in which cell he was kept, when he was washed in the bath, a doctor's report and the signature of the arresting officer.

Zhukov did not violate the requirements of the statute. He filled out the "note of arrest". He gave Marshal Beria fifteen days' detention. He was not allowed to do more.

Beria did not serve his sentence. The next day, he was transported to an underground bunker at the headquarters of the Moscow Military District on Osipenko Street. This is in Khoroshovka, not far from the place where the Aquarium would soon be built.

I don't know what Zhukov wrote about the bathhouse and the doctor's report. Perhaps he just put dashes through them. All I know is what he wrote in the box about the reason for the arrest.

A participant in those events, Major General Zub, said many years later that Zhukov, filling out the document, thought for a moment and scribbled decisively: "For losing vigilance."

3

On July 2-7, 1953, a plenum of the Central Committee was held in Moscow. Beria was accused of "criminal anti-party and anti-state actions".

On the first day of the plenum, Khrushchev proposed that Georgy Konstantinovich Zhukov be transferred from candidate to member of the Central Committee. The motion was passed unanimously.

The Plenum harshly criticized the activities of Beria and his accomplices. In order to save space and time, I will cite only one accusation. Comrade Anastas Mikoyan, a member of the Presidium of the CPSU Central Committee, is speaking:

> "In the first days after the death of Comrade Stalin, he spoke out against the cult of personality... Beria wanted to undermine the cult of personality of Comrade Stalin."
>
> *(RDAI, Fond 2. Description 1. File 45. Transcript of the July plenary session. Evening session of July 3, 1953. Published: Visti TsKPBS. - 1991. - No. 1-2)*

You have to be such a bastard! He wanted to undermine the cult of Comrade Stalin's personality! But it's not enough to shoot him for that!

On the last day of its work, the CPSU Central Committee adopted a resolution:

> "...Recently, Beria has become so overzealous that under the banner of fighting against shortcomings and excesses in collective farming in the countries of the People's Democracy and the GDR, he has openly expressed anti-collective farm views, up to and including proposals to dissolve collective farms in these countries. In the light of the exposed crimes of Beria, it becomes clear that he leaned toward a hostile position toward the collective farm system of the USSR."
>
> *(C. 370)*

Let us evaluate at least two of these proposals. Beria did not propose to dissolve the collective farms in the Soviet Union. However, Beria was very critical of the forced transfer of our sad experience to the agriculture of Poland and East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania. Vigilant comrades came to their senses in time: he doesn't like our collective farms either! That's when Zhukov arrested Beria!

Zhukov's personal contribution to the preservation of slavery in our country has not yet been appreciated. The majority of the population of the Soviet Union at that time lived in rural areas. The entire rural population was forced into collective farms in the early 1930s. Those who resisted were killed. Millions of them were killed. The collective farms did not pay money for work. Instead of money, sticks were entered into the record. The collective farmers were not allowed to have passports, so that they would not run away. The majority of the country's population at that time did not have any personal documents at all. That is, the majority of the country's population were not citizens of their own country.

Khrushchev and Zhukov dreamed not only of keeping Russian and Ukrainian, Belarusian and Lithuanian, Estonian and Latvian, Uzbek and Tajik men in slavery, but also of extending this system to all European countries that the Red Army had liberated from the "brown plague."

In the summer of 1953, Beria had not yet spoken out against slavery in our country. However, he was suspected of such intentions. And he was neutralized in time.

4

A serf means someone who is fixed, that is, someone who cannot leave of his own free will.

We are told that the difference between a Soviet collective farmer and a serf was that a collective farmer could not be sold. This is correct. However, until 1861, serfs were of four categories: landlord, factory, monastery, and state-owned. Landowners could be sold and bought. There was no prohibition on the sale of factory, monastery, and state serfs. However, they were not sold for many reasons.

So our collective farmer according to all articles corresponded to the concept
"state serf".

Paul I's manifesto of April 5, 1797, prescribed three-day serfdom: a serf worked for his master only three days a week. In addition, he did not work on holidays. And there were plenty of holidays in the Orthodox calendar. In our native collective farms, we worked all week. Who would have taken the liberty of allowing collective farmers to work for Khrushchev and Zhukov only three days a week?

A landowner's serf could buy himself out of slavery. Or someone could buy him out and make him free. That's how admirers of his talent chipped in and bought Taras Shevchenko out. And who could buy out a Stalinist-Khrushchev-Zhukov serf from a collective farm?

A landowner could let his men go free. Let's recall Nikolai Alekseevich Nekrasov's "Who Can Live Well in Russia": "A admiral sailed the seas, sailed the seas, sailed ships... When he was dying, he wrote a will: he gave all his men freedom."

The landlord could replace the serfdom with a tribute. Let us recall Eugene Onegin. The men no longer worked on the landlord's fields, but paid him in cash or in kind.

After the deaths of Khrushchev and Zhukov on August 28, 1974, the Council of Ministers of the USSR approved a new regulation on the passport system. It was decided to recognize Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian, and other collective farmers as citizens of their country to some extent and issue them internal passports.

Zhukov died two months before the introduction of internal passports for collective farmers. Otherwise, he would have been very upset. He arrested Beria, among other things, to prevent the abolition of slavery in the Soviet Union.

5

And now for some statistics.

Compared to the Russian Empire 1913, grain production in the Soviet Union in 1953 decreased by 3.5 million tons per year, and the number of cows by 4.5 million.

This is not an evil invention of a anti-Soviet, but a speech by Comrade V. V. Matskevich at the June 1957 plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU. Comrade Matskevich, Deputy Chairman of the of the Council of of Ministers OF THE USSR, Minister of Agriculture of Agriculture, member of the CPSU Central Committee (Molotov, Malenkov, Kaganovich. 1957. Transcript of the June Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. - Moscow, 1998. - P. 633).

At their secret meetings, the leaders admitted that there were still some shortcomings in agricultural production. The propaganda claimed that "Stalin took Russia with a plow," but they did not hide from themselves that their wise leadership had brought the country much lower than that plow.

It should be borne in mind that the number of cows has not just decreased over the past forty years. The cow of 1913 is one thing, because it was a breadwinner that was individually cared for. A skinny, bony Soviet cow in a collective farm herd in 1953 is something else.

Tsar Nicholas had no collective farms, no tractors and combines, no automobiles in agriculture. He did not have millions of tons of fertilizers. He did not invest any state money in agriculture, did not hold meetings in the Kremlin on livestock issues, and did not hand out orders to agricultural leaders.

In the early 1930s, Comrade Stalin and other comrades destroyed the kulaks as a class. They destroyed it literally. Why? Because the kulaks were hiding bread and preventing the construction of a new life.

Surprisingly, under Tsar Nicholas Alexandrovich, the same kulaks for some reason did not hide bread and did not prevent anyone from building anything.

6

After Stalin's assassination, Marshal Beria was the most powerful politician in the Soviet Union. The arrest and removal from power of Marshal Beria was a coup d'etat. It was carried out by a small group of military officers.

The group consisted of:

Marshal of the Soviet Union Zhukov, Colonel-General of Artillery Nedelin, Colonel-General Moskalenko, Lieutenant-Generals Batytsky and Biryuzov, Major-Generals Baksov and Brezhnev, Colonel Zub, Lieutenant-Colonel Yuferov.

Zhukov was the first to be promoted. A week after Beria's arrest, he was promoted from a candidate to the CPSU Central Committee to a the Central Committee.

A little over a month passed after the coup. In August 1953, Moskalenko was promoted to the rank of army general, Batytsky and Biryuzov
- Colonel-Generals. All three would become Marshals of the Soviet Union in a few years.

The next day, on August 4, 1953, the other members of the conspiracy received their next military ranks. Colonel General Nedelin became Marshal of Artillery, Major General Brezhnev became Lieutenant General, Colonel Zub became Major General, and Lieutenant Colonel Yuferov became Colonel.

Six years later, Nedelin would be promoted to the rank of Chief Marshal of Artillery, and a year later he would die at the cosmodrome during the explosion of an 8K64 rocket.

Two decades later, Lieutenant General Leonid Brezhnev, having broken through to the top, skipping the rank of colonel general, would be promoted to the rank of army general, and two years later to Marshal of the Soviet Union.

Speaking of Brezhnev. Some of our leaders do have a sense of humor. The undisputed leader in this regard was, of course, Comrade Stalin. Until Brezhnev's dementia took hold, he also appreciated a joke and knew how to joke himself. In 1964, after overthrowing Khrushchev, Brezhnev seized the top post in the Soviet Union. Everyone who had ever opposed Brezhnev was dispersed from the top. True, was no longer shot. Just

They were kicked out of the upper ranks. And Comrade Suslov decided to clarify: with what wording?

Brezhnev, without hesitation, said: "For negligence."

7

In December 1953, a trial was held. Of course, it was closed. The chairman was Marshal of the Soviet Union Ivan Stepanovich Konev. He personally read out the death sentence to Marshal Beria, Army General Merkulov, Colonels Goglidze and Kobulov, Lieutenants Vlodzimirsky and Meshik, and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Dekanozov.

Colonel-General Batytsky personally shot Marshal Beria of the Soviet Union.

In June 1953, Bulganin and Khrushchev, with the help of Zhukov, Konev, Nedelin, Biryuzov, Moskalenko, Batytsky, Brezhnev, and other comrades, carried out a coup d'état. Marshal Beria, the First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and Minister of the Interior, was ousted from his post as Marshal of the Soviet Union. He was exposed, slandered, crushed, and destroyed.

I'm putting the plot against Beria into a special production. When the time comes, we will return to this fascinating topic. For now, I'd just like to point out that our country has had many chances in its history to change the direction of development for the better. All chances were lost.

Marshal Batytsky - the man who shot Beria with his own hands

One of the opportunities existed in the person of Marshal of the Soviet Union Lavrenty Pavlovich Beria.

But we were also very unlucky here.

KEY POINT

Back in the days of Lenin, Sverdlov, and Trotsky, a system was introduced that allowed leaders to bribe their party serfs. Bribery was carried out along many lines.

The highest-ranking leaders lived in the Kremlin, and Comrade Dzerzhinsky lived in a palace that used to belong to Russia's richest millionaire. Lower-ranking leaders were allowed to live in the apartments of tsarist ministers and generals. In the republican and provincial centers, the housing issue was resolved according to the same principle: every cricket knows its own hutch: the governor's palace, a merchant's mansion, a landowner's estate.

Party leaders were guaranteed the most qualified medical care, including abroad.

Special sanatoriums, special clinics, special distribution centers, and special restaurants were opened for party leaders. The leaders knew how to have fun. Fyodor Raskolnikov, the future Stalin whistleblower, hosted banquet after banquet aboard the royal yacht "Standard" on a scale appropriate to the place.

Among the many ways of bribery was and quite already vulgar. It was called the "blue envelope".

For leaders of all ranks, the so-called party maximum was established - a level of monetary income that could not be exceeded. If you received more than the party maximum, give it to the party's collective bank! Let the population know that the proletarians are at the head of the country! The people and the party are one!

But how can a proletarian leader live on such miserable money?

The party found an answer to this question as well. Once a month, each leader received a blue envelope. Why a blue envelope? Because once it was so established. The envelopes soon became white, gray, and brown. But they were still called blue.

There was money in the envelopes. Depending on the rank.

The party maximum did not apply to this money. This money was not mentioned in any declarations or information. It was a real bribe. However, it was not a bribe given by a lower-level official to a higher-level official, but vice versa. This was how they achieved monolithic unity in the party ranks.

After Stalin's death, Beria and Malenkov decided to abolish the blue envelope system.

In doing so, Beria signed his own death warrant and secured his posthumous reputation as a scoundrel, sadist, and libertine.

In doing so, Malenkov chopped off the top of the branched tree he was sitting on.
In doing so, Beria and Malenkov paved the way for Khrushchev to rise to power.

Section 10

1

In September 1953, a plenum of the CPSU Central Committee was held. The main issue was the development of agriculture.

The Plenum really addressed the issue of agricultural development. And this is the main content of its work.

But there was a side message.

Faithful people spread a short message among the Central Committee members present in the Kremlin: the sexual maniac Beria and the master of subterfuge Malenkov had encroached on the main thing-the welfare of the people's servants. And why? Because after Stalin's death, collective leadership was established in our country. There is no firm hand. If Nikita Khrushchev had all the power in his hands, he would not have allowed the abolition of the blue envelopes. But all is not lost. Let's give power to our dear Nikita Sergeevich, and he will correct the mistake.

And the Central Committee members decided that collective leadership is good, but a firm (and generous) hand is better.

This was the end of the collective leadership established after Stalin, in fact.

But it was indecent in 1953 to announce Khrushchev as General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee after this position had just been abolished in October 1952.

What if the new leader cannot be called Secretary General?

On September 13, 1953, the position of First Secretary of the Central Committee was introduced instead of the abolished position of General Secretary by a decision of the CPSU Central Committee Plenum, contrary to the CPSU Charter.

This position was taken over by Nikita Khrushchev, who first of all restored the blue envelope system.

2

Khrushchev had to solve many problems. One of the main ones was that the country could not feed itself.

Khrushchev offered his own way of solving the food issue to create в Kazakhstan new collective farms, to throw on the rise of virgin lands the army, students, volunteers (y voluntary and compulsory order), machinery, fertilizers, allocations, spare parts, fuel. And plow the endless black earth steppes that no one has ever plowed.

Khrushchev decided to create the same collective farms in which people had no incentive to work creatively.

Khrushchev decided to create new collective farms, but where there were no roads, electricity, water, housing, schools, post and telegraph, medical facilities, and everything else. There were no police stations on those lands, and no one controlled the crowds of men who were driven to raise virgin soil.

The money was spent enormously.

A poster calling for virgin lands

Students on virgin lands. Bread on the ground

Khrushchev's idea led to the impoverishment of the central regions of Russia, from where people, machinery, building materials, fertilizers, and fuel were taken to virgin lands.

It turned into an environmental disaster for Kazakhstan. Thousands of years of black soil were plowed up and unprecedented harvests were obtained.

It was impossible to collect them.

Due to the lack of roads, it was impossible to transport what was collected.

There was nowhere to store what was taken out. There were no elevators for such a large amount of grain. We started building elevators. And this is for several years of work. While they were being built, steppe storms blew out black soil. The whole

Europe before Spain and Britain was washing away the black dirt from its streets and squares, windows, walls, and roofs.

That's when the experiment came to a halt.

3

The post of General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee would be restored in less than thirteen years. But this would happen after Khrushchev was overthrown. At the same time, the Presidium of the Central Committee will receive its original name, the Politburo of the Central Committee. This will come later. In the meantime, we are looking at the times when the Marshal of the Soviet Union Beria was liquidated, declared an enemy and a spy.

After Beria's arrest, Malenkov denounced him as a bad man. When he said this, he was quite possibly already biting his elbows. Beria was overthrown, but at the same time Malenkov himself began to be gradually removed from power.

However, it was not so easy to overthrow Malenkov. Not everyone sided with Khrushchev. Malenkov still had supporters.

And not everyone could be bought with a blue envelope. There were quite a few high-ranking executives who understood that the blue envelope was good, but where would we dance under Khrushchev's leadership?

It used to be possible to hope for a world revolution. The advent of nuclear weapons put an end to those dreams. The Soviet Union will no longer be able to invade developed countries without risking a devastating nuclear strike. And if so, it would have to look for other options for development.

Malenkov tried to find a new way.

4

On March 12, 1954, Comrade Malenkov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, said something terrible in a speech to the electorate. He said that if World War III broke out, there would be no winners. The massive use of nuclear weapons would lead to the destruction of world civilization.

It was a statement by a vile confuser, a desecrator of the great and bright ideas of communism. It was an attempt to earn cheap credibility with those who did not want to fight against the exploiters of the working class, who did not want to die with a smile on their lips in the holy war for the great future of all mankind.

How is this possible? Will there be no winners? That's not true! We are not afraid of war! We will win any war! Let the arsonists know: we will win at any cost!

The following day, March 13, 1954, it was exactly six months since Khrushchev became First Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Khrushchev was known to be a fanatical Stalinist. On that day, he struck back at Malenkov and his group with two strikes at once. However, these blows were not visible to outsiders and were not supposedly delivered to Malenkov. So to speak, a strategy of indirect action.

The first blow: On that day, Khrushchev summoned a corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Fedor Konstantinov, to his office and ordered him to immediately republish Stalin's textbook Historical Materialism, shortening it somewhat and eliminating the secondary aspects so that the idea of the inevitability of the victory of the World Revolution would shine even brighter.

The order was fulfilled quickly. Stalin had 200,000 copies, but this was not enough for Khrushchev, a loyal Stalinist. Give me a million!

The authors of the textbook were again not listed. The book is signed, just like last time, by the authors.

The main idea is the same - purely Stalinist, without changes:

> "If the imperialists decide to go crazy and try to start a new world war, their adventure will lead to

the collapse of the entire system of world capitalism...

Only with the disappearance of the imperialist powers will attempts at military interventions disappear...

The capitalist environment will disappear only as a result of socialist revolution in all major capitalist countries...

The October Socialist Revolution is not only a revolution within national borders, but by its very nature it is an international revolution, part of the world proletarian revolution. It was with the victory of the Soviet revolution that the era of the world proletarian revolution began. The October Socialist Revolution opened the era of proletarian revolutions in the countries of capitalism, it opened the era of colonial anti-imperialist revolutions, which are part of the world proletarian revolution...

The October Revolution was the beginning of the world proletarian revolution and the basis for its development."

It continues in the same spirit. The book contains 58 extensive quotations from Stalin's works. The preface states that "Historical materialism provides the only correct, scientific answer to the most general, fundamental theoretical and methodological questions."

This was the answer to the confused Malenkov. The only correct scientific answer.

The book was recommended for study in all institutes and universities, military schools and academies. The book became the granite foundation of our ideology.

The second blow: ideology is only worth something if it is able to defend itself. After the overthrow of Soviet Marshal Beria, the history of the bloody punitive organs of the Soviet Union was decisively and quickly ended.

And started from scratch. There is no way back to the past! No more hated NKVD, OGPU, NKGB, Smersh, etc. Now our ideology will be defended by an organization of a completely different type. With a democratic name - a committee.

The State Security Committee (KGB).

On March 13, 1954, Khrushchev signed a resolution of the Central Committee of the CPSU on the creation of the KGB.

Khrushchev nominated the Hero of the Soviet Union, Colonel-General Ivan Aleksandrovich Serov, to the post of KGB Chairman. A man from his own team. A longtime friend September 1939, since his days in Kyiv.

Anyone who does not believe in the possibility of a world revolution, anyone who expresses conciliatory and defeatist sentiments, anyone who does not agree with our ideology, will have to deal with an organization called the KGB.

KEY POINT

Still, these measures were not enough to overthrow Malenkov and all those who shared his views.

And then the Marshal of the Soviet Union, Georgy Konstantinovich Zhukov, intervened in the battle of the titans.

On March 12, 1954, on the day of Malenkov's speech to the voters, Zhukov called Khrushchev with a "please accept and listen" message.

The meeting took place the next day, on March 13, 1954, immediately after Khrushchev signed a decree establishing the KGB and a decision to publish Stalin's textbook Historical Materialism about the inevitable victory of the World Revolution as a result of World War III.

Zhukov reported to Khrushchev that he had not wasted any time as First Deputy Minister of Defense, that he had done a lot, that he was ready to prove in practice that it was possible to win a nuclear war. It would take exactly six months to complete the preparations.

He got the time he asked for.

Section 11

1

The 128th Humbien Rifle Corps of the 28th Army of the Belarusian Military District was raised on combat alert at dawn on July 13, 1954, at 5:41 a.m.

The commanders and chiefs of staff of two divisions, one brigade, and all sixteen regiments, both those directly subordinate to the corps commander and those that were part of the divisions, were summoned to the citadel of the Brest fortress.

In those years, the fortress served as the location for the command post and headquarters of the rifle corps of the communication center, combat and support units, corps and divisional warehouses, a hospital, a repair base, a guardhouse, and storage facilities for military equipment.

During the last war, the defense of the Brest Fortress could have become an example, a model, and a symbol of unwavering heroism and courage. Instead, the fortress became a place where the tragic consequences of the government's crimes were revealed with striking vividness.

Less than ten years had passed since the end of the war, and the shame of the so-called defense of the Brest Fortress had not yet dissipated. Therefore, it was not appropriate to mention what happened here in the summer of 1941. The time to redraw the map had not yet come. No one at the time thought to call the terrible shame a heroic feat. No one thought of erecting monuments here, lighting an eternal flame, opening a museum, or leading crowds of young enthusiastic patriots.

In 1954, the fortress was just a huge stationary military camp, like a Roman one, filled to the brim with troops, military equipment, ammunition, and other supplies necessary for decisive offensive operations.

Hundreds of casemates of the citadel and two rings of forts encircling the central part of the powerful fortification ensemble were filled with troops and weapons. The corps headquarters was in a ring barracks on the central island. Next to the commander's office is a corridor with brick vaults that winds through many breaks, like in the castles of the Prussian crusaders.

The door of the commander's office opened. The first deputy shouted, "Comrade officers!"

Generals, colonels, and lieutenant colonels jumped in.

The corps commander, Lieutenant General Volodymyr Pylypovych Chyzh, slammed the door. This alone did not bode well.

The general took off his cap, and for some reason his head was shaved, and he smelled of cologne. Somewhere else they would have been surprised. But in the 128th Rifle Corps, they had not been surprised at anything for a long time. The corps commander gave a gloomy look to those whom he was supposed to lead in battles and fights in the event of war, and barked like a company sergeant major: "In a column of three... HALT!"

It has been a long time since generals, colonels and lieutenant colonels have had to execute such commands. They lined up quickly. The swift, precise execution of such commands was drilled into everyone's minds in their youth. It turned out to be something like a full-blooded tank company - 49 people: deputy corps commanders, artillery, corps headquarters, and rear, followed by the commanders of two divisions and one brigade with their chiefs of staff, then regimental commanders, and even further - the chiefs of regimental staff.

— Left-hand!

The company returned, heels thundering, turning from a column of three to three open benches.

— First row - five steps forward! Step... MOVE! Come on! Sit on the chairs!

Another door opened, and the commandant's platoon entered with a bell-like step. All in white coats, obviously borrowed from the hospital. The soldiers in the commandant's platoon are known to be selected. All handsome young men, giants of stubbornness, all equal as one. In the left hand of each of them
- a clean sheet. In the right one is a black cylinder the size of a bottle
The "Stolichnaya" is barely covered by the palm of my hand. There are long cords on the cylinder tails.

- To cut hair. In the style of Kotovsky.

The black cylinders turned out to be electric cars, which had long been rumored, but no one had ever seen this miracle of electrical engineering with their own eyes.

The corps commander had everything prepared in advance: enough stools for one row, cables laid so that all the machines were powered at the same time. The miracle machines started to play, and resinous curls fell on the brick floor. Soldier on that specially

He is standing there, sweeping black, white, and red hair from the floor with a broom; another man with a bottle of Shipra runs through the ranks, pumping up a rubber pear, refreshing the shorn commanders with its effervescent pressure.

Soldiers' haircuts in the field with a mechanical clipper

If hairstyle to do, it takes time. It is necessary to the client a mirror: "Look at yourself, shall we make the tanks straight or angled?"

And if you shave the sheep head, like sheep, it doesn't take much time. The question arises: why?

It seems that the 128th Rifle Corps has not yet started. But it is not customary to ask questions here. If they ordered it, it means we have to do it.

They cut everyone's hair. Even very quickly. Lieutenant General Volodymyr Pylypovych Chizh army his i, apparently,satisfied

He stayed. In any case, he did not swear, did not break stools. Lieutenant General V. P. Chizh had a saying: "A chickadee is a small bird, but it stomps well."

- So, comrade commanders, we have delivered enough clippers to all units and subunits, electric ones and manual ones. Go back to your units and cut everyone's hair. Start with your deputies and headquarters. Cut every single one of them. Shave off mustaches and beards. Each of you is personally responsible for each of your subordinates. Report your readiness to me personally. Do you have any questions? No questions. Gather round!

2

To understand the essence of what is happening, it is imperative that we realize what the Soviet rifle corps of the first half of the 1950s was like.

If we dive deeper, we will evade our fascinating story.

Therefore, I have included brief information about the structure and armament of the postwar rifle corps in the appendix. Now I just have to report that the 128th Humbien Rifle Corps, like any similar corps, was a rifle corps only in name. It's like a penknife. At one time, people used to write with goose quills. The quills, like pencils, had to be sharpened frequently. That's why they invented folding penknives. Then they switched to steel nibs, and then to ballpoint pens, but people stopped writing with goose quills, and the folding knives were left for other purposes.

The same is true here: the corps was called the Rifle Corps, i.e. infantry, but there were no infantry in it, not a single company.

Created at the final stage of the war (on April 21, 1944), the 128th Rifle Corps went through a glorious battle through Poland, East Prussia, to Berlin, and on to Prague. During the war, the 128th Rifle Corps was commanded by Major General P. F. Batytsky, the same man who in 1953 personally gave eternal rest to Soviet Marshal Beria.

After the war, Batycky was promoted, and the 128th Rifle Corps was transferred to Brest.

The structure of the corps, like the structure of all other corps of the Soviet Army, was constantly being improved, and its combat capabilities were growing rapidly.

In the summer of 1954, the 128th Rifle Corps had not three divisions, as usual, but only two:

The 12th Guards Mozyr Red Banner Order of Suvorov Mechanized;

The 50th Stalinist Guards Rifle Corps, twice decorated with the Order of Suvorov and the Order of Kutuzov.

In 1957, all mechanized divisions of the Soviet Army would be transformed into tank divisions, and rifle divisions into motorized rifle divisions. In 1954, they were already, in fact, such divisions, but they had not yet had time to change their names.

So, if we pay attention to the essence, and not to the misleading names, the 128th Rifle Corps in the spring of 1954 had two Guards divisions: a tank division and a motorized rifle division, which was also heavily armed with tanks.

In , the corps included:

The 47th Artillery Brigade (54 130-mm M-46 guns and 36 152-mm ML-20 howitzers);

heavy self-propelled tank regiment (53 IS-3, 24 ISU-152);

Guards mortar regiment of rocket artillery (54 BM-24); separate battalions and divisions:

reconnaissance (PT-76 and APC-40),

anti-tank (100-mm BS-3 guns), anti-aircraft (57-mm S-60 anti-aircraft guns),

communications, and sapper,

pontoon and bridge, motor

transport, and repair,

medical and sanitary,

chemical protection.

In total, the corps has one brigade and sixteen regiments, both those that are part of divisions and those directly subordinate to the corps commander. In particular:

two heavy self-propelled tanks,

two tank tanks,

three mechanized (motorized infantry on armored personnel carriers with tanks and self-propelled artillery systems),

three motorized infantry battalions (motorized infantry on vehicles with self-propelled artillery systems),

six artillery, anti-aircraft artillery and mortar units.

Armament of the corps (two-division composition): heavy tanks IS-3 106,

heavy self-propelled artillery systems ISU-152 - 48, the latest medium tanks T-54 - 187,

medium tanks T-34-85 - 94,

self-propelled artillery systems SU-100 - 21,

self-propelled artillery systems SU-76 - 21, floating tanks PT-76 - 48.

In addition, 406 armored personnel carriers, 115 armored artillery tractors AT-P, hundreds of guns and mortars, thousands of vehicles and unarmored tractors AT-C and AT-T, tens of thousands of soldiers and officers.

The rifle corps of the first half of the 1950s were powerful, highly mobile combined arms formations, based on tank and artillery units.

In total, the 128th Rifle Corps had 88 battalions and divisions: tank, artillery, reconnaissance, sapper, communications, motorized transport, and others. Only 18 of these battalions were motorized rifle battalions, and there were no rifle battalions at all.

In terms of its striking and firepower, the rifle corps, even the one with only two divisions instead of three, was far superior to any tank army of the war.

The 128th Rifle Corps was like everyone else - neither better nor worse.

The began in late 1953.

3

Previously, the 128th Rifle Corps had three divisions, as it should have.

In December 1953, by order of the First Deputy Minister of Defense, Marshal Zhukov, the 55th Guards Irkutsk-Pinsk Order of Lenin, three times Red Banner Order of Suvorov Rifle Division named after the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR was withdrawn from the 128th Rifle Corps.

However, the two remaining divisions, as well as the artillery brigade, regiments and battalions directly subordinate to the corps commander, were fully staffed, to the last man.

After that, people of Caucasian and Central Asian nationalities who did not speak the language of interethnic communication were replaced by who did.

In January 1954, Zhukov ordered all officers to take immediate furloughs.

Our system is simple and straightforward:

> January is cold outside,
> Platoon Leader Vanka goes on vacation.
> In February, as if on a whim,
> The deputy commander is
> on vacation. The sun is hot,
> the deputy commander is on
> vacation.
> The regiment commander is laughing,
> He goes on vacation whenever he wants.

And here, everyone worked two shifts: the first in January and the second in February. Occasionally, someone had to work in March.

The officer ranks were in an uproar: what is this? We can have a vacation, even in Antarctica. In the company of penguins. We shouldn't get used to it. It's not about us - our combat readiness is falling! Who has ever seen a regimental commander, half of the staff officers, half of the

of battalion, company, battery and platoon commanders were absent at the same time? The first deputy commander, the regiment's chief of staff, and the other half of the platoon, company, and battalion commanders go on vacation during the second shift. What if there is a war! It's not just us, but all the regiments in the corps. And in both divisions, the commanders are on vacation. And their deputies. And the chiefs of staff. And the corps commander, Lieutenant General Chyzh, sent on vacation. In the cold. Where does this fit in? Isn't this sabotage?

The voices of the very vigilant were quickly silenced - shhh! It's none of your business. Those at the top know what they are doing.

4

A short-term, two-month decline, or even a complete loss of combat readiness, immediately turned into a rapid increase. All the officers returned from vacation and were immediately at their combat posts. No absentees.

And the combat training became as required by the orders - without relaxation or simplification.

And the commissions to the 128th Corps came one after another, one after another, from the headquarters of the 28th Army, from the headquarters of the Belarusian Military District, the Main Combat Training Department, the Main Operational Department of the General Staff, the Main Artillery Department, the Main Armored Department, and again from the headquarters of the 28th Army.

The corps commander is not far behind.

The bird, as we remember, is not very big, but it trains well.

And alarms after alarms. The dust did not dissipate over the corps' tank ranges overnight. So much of it was raised during the day that in the early morning, tanks were driven in the dark, raising the dust even higher. The fired shell casings were taken away from the firing ranges by dump trucks. At the artillery range, the roar was incessant. Only a dozen batteries have fired, and immediately another dozen take their place and fire! Fire! Fire!

All the officers of the corps have an officer's tan in May. What is this

special officer's tan?

It's when the hands are black and brown, half of the forehead, face, neck, and ears are the color of stained oak with a bronze tint. And he is all white. I took off my cap and saw a marking along the brim like a state border: everything below the brim was scorched by the sun, and a white stripe across my forehead was like a turban.

Tankers have a special tan. A tank helmet covers the ears and neck. Therefore, the tanker has only a black mask on his face. And he is still white.

5

Meanwhile, the 128th Corps was reinforced with new units.

A separate mechanized regiment with a special experimental structure and the most modern military equipment was added to the corps: T-10 heavy tanks, SU-122-54 self-propelled guns, ZSU-57-2 anti-aircraft guns, and BTR-50P floating tracked armored personnel carriers.

There was also a very cunning structure called "Comrade Bobrov's part". Or simply - "Bobrov's farm". What part? What kind of farm?

They placed that unit behind high fences. The personnel was taken to the forest for training. A motorized platoon was allocated for this purpose - 18 ZIS-151 with tents. No one saw these guys. They were covered with tarpaulins. It was not even clear what rank Comrade Bobrov had, what kind of farm he was talking about. If he is a lieutenant, we can assume how many subordinates he has. And if he was a captain?

Although eighteen trucks for personnel indicated a different size of the farm.

Later it turned out that some of them were dirty repairmen.

But why are the repairmen kept behind a fence? Why don't they show them to anyone? And why is it that no equipment is ever released from these repairmen, and why is no equipment ever repaired?

And that's because, dear comrades, those repairmen were not quite ordinary. The 3rd Division of the 233rd Svirska Engineer Brigade of the Russian Military District Command, the reserve of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, was added to the 128th Rifle Corps.

The brigade was not an engineering brigade in fact, but only in name. The brigade was armed with 8A11 carriers.

Having received the "repairmen" under his command, the corps commander could now launch nuclear strikes himself, clearing the way for his tanks with the proud name "Joseph Stalin."

Meanwhile, combat training was not at the limit of human capabilities. These limits do not exist. Do not be afraid to go overboard. Man is capable of anything.

The combat training was at the limit of the equipment's capabilities. A tank is not a person, because it is made of iron. Unlike a human, it needs care and affection. It needs maintenance. If not for this, tanks, armored personnel carriers, and armored artillery tractors would be driven without stopping.

April passed at this pace. And May. And June.

July has crept up on us. And the combat training is still at the same frantic pace.

On July 13, the corps was raised on the alert. And the corps felt the difference. They raised it once a week. Or even twice. But those were ordinary alarms, and here it was a combat one!

They summoned the commanders and chiefs of staff of the regiments, including the citadel of the Brest fortress, and shaved their heads. And they ordered all their subordinates to have their hair cut. If we take into account the reinforcement units: the experimental regiment, the Bobrova farm, and other smaller units temporarily incorporated into the corps, then the total

- 36 thousand fighters. All of them - under Kotovsky.

And for download.

6

Now let's do the math.

The experimental motorized rifle regiment of the 128th Infantry Corps alone has 30 heavy T-10 tanks. This is 1,500 tons of combat weight. This is a railroad echelon.

In addition, the corps has 106 IS-3 heavy tanks. Three more echelons.

48 heavy self-propelled vehicles ISU-152. Two more.

And then hundreds of tanks and self-propelled guns: T-54, SU-122-54, T-34-85, SU-100, SU-76, PT-76.

And the ZSU-37 and ZSU-57-2 self-propelled anti-aircraft systems.

And there are a lot of armored personnel carriers. Again, hundreds of them.

Artillery tractors are hard to come by. There are 120 heavy artillery tractors in the artillery brigade alone.

Can you imagine an AT-T tractor? It weighs 20 tons. It is based on the components and assemblies of the T-54 tank. It is powered by the same tank diesel engine of fantastic power. The AT-T can pull a 130-mm cannon or a 152-mm howitzer. Both of them weigh 8 tons. In the forward position, the size of the howitzer gun is 8 meters, and the 130-mm guns are all

12. Calculate how many wagons are needed to move one rifle corps.

This corps, like all the others, has 54 BM-24 rocket-propelled artillery vehicles, and each division has 18 BM-14s.

And hundreds of gun barrels, howitzers, howitzer guns, mortars.

14509 vehicles.

And more than three tens of thousands of coiffed guardsmen with a tan from the eyebrows to the standing collar.

Echelons of on download served so that buffers rang.

Ten echelons, twenty, thirty... More and .

They drove those trains under the green light. Without stopping. They whistled, hooted, and clattered past stations and half-stations. Frightening aunts and girls with their unheard-of power: isn't this a war?

In those years, small businesses flourished at small stations and half-stations. Good aunts would boil potatoes, mash them with bacon and onions,

They fermented cucumbers and brought the products of their labor to the train tracks. Sometimes you could quietly buy a bottle of cloudy homemade drink from them. The only pity was that the military trains were passing by. And songs were blaring from the loudspeakers:

> The wheels were caught on the rails,
> You waved to me from the slope:
> I will remember, I will not
> forget, I will not forget!

The route from Brest through Pinsk, Gomel, Bryansk, Orel, Lipetsk, Penza, and Kuibyshev to the South Ural Military District.

To the Totsk training ground.

Section 12

1

In 1736, the Totsk fortress was founded on the Samara River, which the Ural Cossacks called Sakmara.

In 1773, during the Pugachev Rebellion, the Cossack garrison of the Totsk fortress voluntarily joined the impostor.

On March 9, 1774, the fortress was taken by the brigade of Major General Pavlo Dmytrovych Mansurov.

Six decades later, the prominent Russian historian Alexander Sergeevich Pushkin wrote "The History of Pugachev" and "The Captain's Daughter. Gathering materials for his research, Pushkin walked and drove through the sites of former battles and battles from Samara to Orenburg. On this way, on September 18, 1833, he stopped in Totsk village.

In the early twentieth century, a huge landfill, even by the standards of our country, was established in the area of the former Totsk fortress.

Poisonous gases were the most terrible weapon of mass destruction in World War I. The Russian army tested poisonous substances at the Totsk ground.

Germany lost the First World War, and according to the Treaty of Versailles, it was forbidden to develop, produce, and possess not only poisonous substances, but also tanks, heavy artillery, submarines, bombers, and much more. But if Germany is disarmed, who will start World War II, without which the World Revolution is impossible?

Thus, even before Hitler came to power, Comrade Stalin made every effort to prepare Germany for war. On the territory of the Soviet Union, German designers secretly developed and tested tanks, artillery, dive bombers, and submarines in secret from the rest of the world. At the Totsk test site, as well as in the Volsk area, if anyone doesn't remember, the Germans tested poisonous substances.

In the Second World War, each of the major participating powers had chemical weapons and delivery systems. However, because the enemy's potential in this area was unknown and there was a threat of a more powerful

no country has dared to be the first to use chemical weapons.

But if someone had decided to do so, Germany, thanks to Comrade Stalin, was ready for such a development.

2

A lot of water has been lost in the Samara River since the time of Pugachev and Pushkin. The river remained, but the city of Samara . As well as Orenburg. Instead.
— Kuibyshev and Chkalov. The Totsk training ground was located between Kuibyshev and Chkalov.

The echelons of the 128th Rifle Corps rushed here, to the Totsk training ground, where German specialists once prepared to suffocate Europe with poisonous gases. They unloaded at the Buzuluk station.

It turned out that the 128th Rifle Corps had to participate in the "Snizhok" military exercises.

The 7th Rifle Corps of the South Ural Military District as part of the 73-ï Vitebsk Red Banner mechanized and 270th Demidov Red Banner Infantry Divisions prepared the defense. The 128th Rifle Corps, redeployed from Belarus, had to break the prepared defense using the most modern means armed struggle.

3

It is customary to build an army tent city in a line. The line itself — It's three, four, five, or even ten rows of tents. Behind these rows — parking lots for combat and transport vehicles, warehouses, kitchens, repair shops - everything needed to ensure the lives of thousands of people.

Each military camp has its own radio in the linear arrangement. Each battalion and regiment has an open front, common to all. At the same time, each battalion and regiment has its own open rear.

Let's say that a battalion of a regiment needs to be urgently called in to solve a problem. This battalion will not have to fight its way through the ranks of other battalions and regiments, because there is a clear field in front of each battalion and regiment.

And if you need to supply something to this battalion or regiment, such as potatoes for the camp kitchens or shells for tanks, there will be no problem either: there is also a clear field behind each unit, each unit and formation.

In 1954, at the Totsk training ground of the South Ural Military District, the front line of the tent city of the 128th Infantry Corps, which arrived from Belarus, and the 7th Infantry Corps, which played the role of the enemy, stretched for 43 kilometers.

And not far from this line camp, a general's town was built in a birch grove. There were no tents, just prefabricated wooden houses. A lot of these houses were built. The commanders of all Soviet corps were gathered for the exercise: commanders of all armies, commanders of all military districts and groups of troops, and their chiefs of staff. Also, the commanders-in-chief of the Armed Forces, chiefs of staff, the heads of the Main and Central Departments of the Ministry of Defense and the General Staff.

Our younger brothers in the class were also invited to enjoy the spectacle: the top military leaders of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, East Germany, Mongolia, Albania, North Korea, North Vietnam, and China.

Yes! That's right.

In those years, China was the Soviet Union's little brother.

Next to the generals in the same houses, unknown purely civilian comrades wearing glasses, gray striped jackets, and ties were placed.

These civilians were the ones who created the most powerful weapons and were in charge of their production. Among them was Comrade Vyacheslav Aleksandrovich Malyshev, Minister of Medium Machine Building, with his deputies and leading designers.

And far from the military camp and the general's town, another town was built - a government town.

4

On September 12, 1954, Marshals of the Soviet Union Konev, Malinowski, Vasilevsky, Tymoshenko, Budyonny, Sokolovsky, Marshal of Poland Rokosowski, Chief Marshal of Artillery Voronov, and Marshal of Artillery Nedelin arrived at the Totsk training ground, Marshal of Armored Troops Bogdanov, Marshal of Aviation Zhigoriev, Admiral of the Fleet Kuznetsov, Army Generals Chuykov, Biryuzov, Grechko, Krylov, Moskalenko, Bagramyan, Colonels-General Batytsky, Biryuzov, Batov, Golikov.

On the same day, dear foreign guests, leaders of fraternal socialist countries, also arrived. Representatives of neutral states, such as military attaches from Finland, Sweden, and Afghanistan, were not forgotten. In total, representatives of 16 countries attended the exercise.

On September 13, Lieutenant General Nikita Sergeevich Khrushchev was spotted in the government town. Exactly one year ago, on September 13, 1953, he took over as First Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The Snizhok military exercise was in a sense a gift for the first anniversary of the country's main title.

Khrushchev was accompanied by Lieutenant General Georgy Malenkov, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and Nikolai Bulganin, First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and Minister of Defense of the USSR.

The head of the exercise, First Deputy Minister of Defense of the USSR Marshal Zhukov, reported on the readiness of troops and staffs for Operation Snowball.

The theme of the exercise: "Breakthrough of the enemy's prepared defense with the use of nuclear weapons by the rifle corps".

5

On the morning of September 13, 1954, Marshal Zhukov of the Soviet Union reported to the countrys leadership on the readiness of troops and headquarters for Operation Snowball. In the evening of the same day, Zhukov summoned to his field residence the former Chief of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces, former Army General, and at that time Chief of Staff of the Siberian Military District, Lieutenant General Shtemenko.

A year ago, in the summer of 1953, Zhukov and Shtemenko found themselves on opposite sides of the barricade. Marshal Zhukov, heading a capture group, personally arrested Marshal Beria on Khrushchev's orders. Army General Shtemenko was suspected being Beria's confidant in the Armed Forces. Therefore, Shtemenko was immediately dismissed from his post, demoted by two , and exiled to Siberia.

And here they are together. A marshal and a lieutenant

general. There's a gap between them.

Between them, there is a table and a map with the plan for an unprecedented military exercise affectionately called "Snowball."

The map is pushed aside. In its place is a bottle and two glasses. The appetizer is simple. It's a frontline snack.

Fate separated them a year ago. But how much they had in common, how many good they had done in all the previous years.

Before the war and in its first weeks, Army General Zhukov was Chief of the General Staff.

After the war, Army General Shtemenko was Chief of the General Staff.

Marshal of the Soviet Union Zhukov is the First Deputy Minister of Defense, and Lieutenant General Shtemenko was also recently the First Deputy Minister of Defense.

During the war, Shtemenko headed the Red Army's main brain trust, the General Staff Operations Directorate. Shtemenko prepared plans, Stalin approved them, and sent Zhukov to the front to

plans to turn into victories with the help of cursing, beating, ripping off shoulder straps and executions.

Fate brought Shtemenko and Zhukov together more than once at Stalin's nearby dacha in Kuntsevo. A few days before the start of each major offensive, usually late at night, Zhukov and Shtemenko would enter the office of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief and, together with Stalin, would clarify the last details.

The three of them often determined the fate of the war.

However, other times came. After the war, Zhukov was ousted from the top of the government, and Shtemenko was elevated, but a year before Stalin's death, he was also ousted. After Stalin's death, Shtemenko rose to almost the same heights, but was immediately thrown down even lower with the loss of two stars on his shoulder straps. And he was thrown into the Siberian wilds.

However, one cannot envy Zhukov. He himself returned to Moscow from the Urals only a year and a half ago.

True, the stars were not torn from his shoulder

straps. Zhukov returned to Moscow, but as what?

During the war, he was Stalin's deputy.

Now Zhukov is Comrade Bulganin's deputy defense minister.

And who is Comrade Bulganin?

M. Bulganin, Minister of Defense, Marshal of the Soviet Union

In 1941, Comrade Bulganin was Chairman of the Board of the State Bank. During the war, Bulganin was a political overseer of the frontline commanders. He never fought in a single battle or operation. Nevertheless, as a political observer, he was awarded military ranks. His first rank in life was lieutenant general. And he had never commanded a squad, platoon, company, battalion, regiment, brigade, corps, or army. He had never held any military ranks before. He continued to command no one, he supervised. And the titles just kept falling on his shoulder straps - colonel general, army general.

After the war, Stalin hung up Bulganin's marshal's shoulder straps and gave him the post of Minister of the Armed Forces. (The ministry changed names several times during those turbulent years: defense, armed forces, military, and defense again.) Two years later, Stalin promoted Bulganin even higher: he fired him

from his duties as minister and appointed him deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, i.e. his deputy in the government.

After Stalin's death, Bulganin retained the post of deputy prime minister and also regained the post of defense minister.

However, for the military, Bulganin remained a despised accountant from the State Bank forever.

I don't know what the two Stalinist commanders Zhukov and Shtemenko talked about on the evening of September 13, 1954. I would be happy to report, but I have nothing.

All I know is that, starting from that evening, the relationship was restored. And they never deteriorated. There was no conflict between Zhukov and Shtemenko. It was their bosses Khrushchev and Beria who did not share their place in the sun. But Zhukov and Shtemenko had nothing to divide. They a common interest.

Shtemenko's interest was to return to his marshal position as Chief of the General Staff and receive the rank that corresponded to this position.

Zhukov's interest is to rise above the accountant from the State Bank, to whom Zhukov is forced to obey.

The interest of both is to develop the armed forces in the way that is necessary from the standpoint of higher strategy, and not in the way that political chatterboxes Khrushchev, Malenkov, and Bulganin, who wear golden epaulets but know nothing about military affairs, believe.

The interest of both is to get the army out of the hands of civilian chatterboxes.

6

Zhukov had one more reason to resume business contact with Lieutenant General Shtemenko. During the war, Zhukov surrounded himself with sycophants and servants. Zhukov raised them up and praised them, hung orders and general's stars on them. But after the war, when Stalin deposed Zhukov, all the sycophants and servants moved away from their benefactor with the speed of tracer bullets, which whistle in the darkness when they hit the concrete wall of a pillbox.

Zhukov remained Marshal of the Soviet Union. Zhukov retained an apartment in a government building in Moscow and a palatial dacha in the Moscow region.

However, in our country, a person's position is determined not by their rank or ownership of palaces, but by their position. And Zhukov's position, starting on June 3, 1946, was commander of the troops of the Odesa Military District; from February 4, 1948, he was commander of the Ural Military District. Compared to what happened before, this is the lowest fall. If the fall has begun, we know how it will end.

Thus, when the commander of the Odesa Military District, Marshal of the Soviet Union Zhukov, came to Moscow for a few days to celebrate the new year of 1947, none of those whom he had raised and praised during the war responded to his invitation. They all knew that Zhukov would not return to the top, so they should not tarnish their reputations by being friends with a disgraced strategist.

However, after Stalin's death, Khrushchev brought Zhukov back to the top. Zhukov rose again. The position of First Deputy Minister of Defense allowed him to remind his former "favorites" of their rather reckless behavior. Zhukov remembered them all. Zhukov shoved each of them into such corners of our great Motherland where service never seemed to be honey to anyone.

But now Zhukov needed a new team.

Shtemenko was neither a protege nor a nominee of Zhukov. Shtemenko, like Zhukov, was Stalin's nominee. Shtemenko was not among those who turned their backs on Zhukov at the time of the fall. Therefore, Zhukov had every reason to take Lieutenant General Shtemenko to his new team.

Shtemenko was removed from his post and demoted to lieutenant general by order of Khrushchev. Thus, Shtemenko could not have been a supporter or ally of Khrushchev. Such a general could be useful. In addition, despite his fall, Shtemenko managed to maintain good relations with many of his old comrades-in-arms.

At that time, Zhukov had no reliable team, no people to rely on in a serious matter. Shtemenko had them.

So there was a topic for conversation. It's a pity that no one will ever be able to recover the details.

All I know is that at the end of the meeting, as he was leaving Lieutenant General Shtemenko, Zhukov asked if there was a labeled general in mind who could take serious risks in a very important case.

Shtemenko replied that he had such a general in mind - Lieutenant General Mamsurov, commander of the 27th Infantry Corps of the 13th Army of the Carpathian Military District. "It's high time we put someone in charge of the army, and even higher.

Shaking hands, Zhukov smiled and winked: "Everything is in our hands."

ACTORS

SERGEY MATVEYEVICH SHTEMENKO

He was born 1907.

He voluntarily joined the Red Army. He was a soldier and junior commander. In 1930, he graduated from the Sevastopol School of Anti-Aircraft Artillery. In less than three years, he held the positions of platoon commander, battery commander, chief of staff of an artillery battalion, and first assistant chief of staff of an artillery regiment.

In 1933, he entered the Stalin Military Academy of Mechanization and Motorization of the Red Army (since 1943 - the Stalin Military Academy of Armored and Mechanized Forces of the Red Army named after J.V. Stalin), from which he graduated in 1937. He commanded a separate training heavy tank battalion. He had an exceptional, phenomenal, superhuman memory. This gift was combined with his outstanding analytical skills, which served as the basis for his enrollment in the Military Academy of the General Staff in 1938, from which Lieutenant Colonel Shtemenko graduated in late 1940.

During his deployment, he asked to be assigned to any command position in any military district, but was sent to the Operational Department of the General Staff of the Red Army. Here he met the beginning of the war.

In the fall of 1941, he was promoted to colonel.

On June 3, 1942, he was appointed Chief of the 4th Division of the Operational Department of the General Staff.

On November 23, 1942, on the day when the mobile units of the Southwestern and Stalingrad Fronts closed the ring of encirclement around the German troops in the Stalingrad area, Colonel Shtemenko was promoted to Major General.

On April 4, 1943, Shtemenko was promoted to the position of Chief of the General Staff's Operations Department and promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General. From that time on, under the control of Stalin and Vasilevsky, he personally supervised the development of all strategic plans of the Red Army.

During the war, Stalin established a strict and rigid procedure for the work of the General Staff According to Stalin's schedule, senior leaders of the General Staff were allowed to sleep no more than four to five hours a day, and the head of the operational department, Lieutenant General Shtemenko, only during the day, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., and if the fronts were calm, until 7 p.m.

In the second half of the war, the Soviet Union's Armed Forces consisted of 72 Combined Arms Armies, 6 Guards Tank Armies, 174 rifle, 26 tank, 14 mechanized, 10 artillery, 9 airborne, 8 cavalry corps, 516 infantry (not including motorized rifle corps, airborne and mountain infantry), 105 artillery and mortar divisions, 26 cavalry divisions, and 44 fortified areas. In addition, there were 18 air armies, 7 air defense armies, fleets and flotillas, military districts, 10 defense construction departments transformed from 10 sapper armies, hundreds of aviation corps and divisions. Shtemenko remembered the names of all commanders and officers up to and including the division, knew the status and location of each front and fleet, each army and flotilla, each corps, each division.

The situation changed every day, every hour, every minute. Shtemenko managed to take in and memorize everything.

And that's not all. Intelligence was working in every battalion, every artillery division, every regiment, every brigade and division, every corps, army, flotilla, navy, front, intelligence of partisan units, military strategic agent intelligence in enemy ports and capitals. All the information flowed to the Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff, which issued a summary every six hours: this German division left, this one arrived,

This division has been transferred from one area to another, this division has fresh forces, this one is shabby.

There is an eternal curse over military intelligence analysts: you are always guilty.

If you report immediately, it means that the information is inaccurate, unreliable, and unverified. And you will be asked for it.

If you report that you've checked, it means you're late with the report, it means the information is no longer the most recent, it means the situation has already changed. And the question is straight to the point, between the eyes: why didn't you report earlier?

In war, information about the enemy is always fragmentary, approximate, and questionable. Here, too, everything is constantly and rapidly changing. Shtemenko was able to cover all of this.

He reported the situation to Stalin personally two or three times a day.
He did not use any recordings.

One day, Stalin, in a good mood, decided to compete with Shtemenko in the circle of his associates in his knowledge of the situation at the front. The match ended in a draw.

Perhaps Shtemenko diplomatically decided not to show his superiority over the Supreme Commander to his entourage. Or perhaps there could be no winner in this competition: if Shtemenko's memory was superhuman, Stalin's was devilish.

On November 17, 1943, Stalin promoted his favorite to the rank of colonel general. From the first general's star to the thirdit took less than a year.

In November 1943, Soviet Marshal Stalin met with the US President and the British Prime Minister in Tehran. It is clear that Colonel General Shtemenko was with Stalin all the time to keep the Supreme Commander-in-Chief informed of the situation on the fronts.

In August 1945, the command of the 1st Far Eastern Front and the Pacific Fleet made a mistake that almost led to the complete collapse of the career of Colonel General Shtemenko, the creator of all the Red Army's strategic plans.

A naval assault on Southern Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands was being prepared. The plan called for the landing of marine units from boats and small warships - lookouts, minesweepers, and small hunters. After that, huge

The bulk carriers are the same ones that transported labor, barbed wire, and choppers from Nakhodka and Vanino to Kolyma and Chukotka before and during the war.

The big bosses in Vladivostok and Khabarovsk figured out what the landing party that landed on the islands needed, first of all. There were no two ways about it: ammunition and grenades.

And then what? Heavy weapons that cannot be transported on torpedo and patrol boats: mortars, 45-mm guns, mines and shells for them, flamethrowers to smoke out the Japs from concrete firing points. And then there are demining equipment, engineering equipment, and it would be nice to get some vehicles to each island: motorcycles and American jeeps, fuel for them, communications equipment to organize interaction. And everything else.

It's done - it's done.

Preparations for the airborne operation were kept in strict secrecy. The people who are loading do not know the plans of their superiors. They were ordered to do so, and they are carrying out the order. According to the order of the high command, the most important things were loaded first.

Therefore, the Marines found themselves under fire from Japanese garrisons with only the small supply of ammunition and grenades that the soldiers carried. The valiant marines fought with a minimum supply of ammunition, without heavy weapons, without means of transportation, communication, and other things necessary to capture, hold, and expand bridgeheads.

Everything that was necessary for fighting, everything that had been loaded in the first place, was at the very bottom of the holds, piled on top of hospital tents and cots, bags of flour, rice and potatoes, barrels of cucumbers and cabbage, boxes of stew and condensed milk.

The Japanese fought furiously. Therefore, Russian blood was shed there in excess of our generous standards.

Many people got it. In particular, Colonel General Shtemenko. He himself was in Moscow. He did not prepare this brilliant operation himself. But he was responsible for all the plans. His fate hung on a thin thread.

Only a few months later did Stalin change his anger to mercy.

On April 27, 1946, the Operational Directorate of the General Staff was transformed into the Main Operational Directorate, with Colonel General Shtemenko as its head.

On November 12, 1948, Shtemenko was appointed Chief of the General Staff, the first Deputy Minister of the Armed Forces.

He was promoted to the rank of army general, but held the position of Marshal of the Soviet Union.

Army General Shtemenko was the youngest Chief of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces in its history. At any time, Stalin could have promoted Army General Shtemenko to marshal. His position allowed him to.

But he could not have been promoted. Two predecessors in this position were examples.

On January 18, 1943, Stalin promoted the Chief of the General Staff, Colonel-General Vasilevsky, to the rank of Army General. Twenty-nine days later, Stalin hung the diamond-covered Star of the Marshal of the Soviet Union around Vasilevsky's neck.

After Vasilevsky, Army General Antonov was appointed to this post. He was Chief of the General Staff at the final stage of the war, during its most advantageous period, when orders and titles were handed out with increased generosity.

But Antonov never became a marshal.

Army General Shtemenko could count on both the first and second options.

A year passed, another, a third, a fourth... Army General Shtemenko had been working as a marshal for five years, performing the duties of a marshal, giving orders and instructions to marshals.

But he was not a marshal himself.

Then an unfortunate thing happened. Army General Shtemenko had a good friend, Marshal of the Soviet Union Lavrenty Pavlovich Beria.

In 1952, sensing trouble, Stalin began to actively weaken the positions of his closest associates. The main blow was aimed at Beria and his clan. Army General Shtemenko was among those targeted by Stalin's attack. On June 17, 1952, he was removed from the post of Chief of the General Staff and appointed Chief of Staff of the Soviet Forces Group in Germany.

He was promoted from the post of Marshal of the Soviet Union to the rank of colonel general. In addition, Shtemenko was exiled from Moscow to distant foreign possessions.

In October 1952, at the XIX Party Congress, Stalin dramatically expanded the composition of the Presidium of the Central Committee, but Stalin's opponents promoted groups of their supporters.

In other words, if Stalin succeeds in subjugating the Presidium of the Central Committee, then the politicians of a completely different headquarters will meet on the floor below, in the Central Committee itself.

Khrushchev, among others, nominated the disgraced Marshal Zhukov as a candidate for the Central Committee. Beria honored the disgraced army general Shtemenko.

Immediately after Stalin's death, Khrushchev brought Zhukov back from the Urals to Moscow and appointed him First Deputy Minister of Defense; Beria brought Shtemenko back from Germany and made him First Deputy Chief of the General Staff.

In June 1953, Khrushchev overthrew Beria with the help of Zhukov.

Beria's entire clan was defeated, dispersed, and trampled on.

Sergei Matveyevich Shtemenko was lucky. He was not shot as one of Beria's closest associates. He was not even arrested. He was simply demoted to lieutenant general and sent to serve in Siberia.

Section 13

1

If we are facing a fortified castle, fortress, or fortress, there are two ways to take possession of this stronghold: by attack, or storming, to use the German phrase, or by siege.

Sometimes you have to pay for your efforts in time. Sometimes a castle or fortress was surrounded for several years, but they were never able to take it.

You have to pay for the assault with blood.

Our commanders have always preferred the assault. Because time is precious, and the blood of a soldier is not an extraordinary value.

If we decide to assault, it will consist of two elements.

First of all, we need to somehow get inside the fortress - get through the wall or break through it.

Secondly, to deal with the defenders.

At the very beginning of the twentieth century, a new phenomenon emerged in the practice of warfare: a continuous front that could stretch for hundreds or even thousands of kilometers, flanked by a sea shore, mountain range, border of a neutral state, or other insurmountable obstacle for ground troops. The entire territory defended by the enemy became a fortress. Therefore, any offensive operation of the twentieth century, like the storming of a fortress, was divided into two main elements:

You need to break the enemy's defense;

break into enemy territory through one or more gaps. To do this, as soon as a gap appears in the defense, mobile units must be engaged in combat. Their task is to move rapidly forward, bypass the main enemy forces, threatening their flanks and rear, close the ring of encirclement behind enemy troops or press them to the sea, cut off supply routes, deprive them of the opportunity to continue the fight, and reach the most vulnerable vital centers of the enemy country.

2

So, the first thing is to break through the defense.

During the First World War, all armies tried to break through the enemy's front, but only some armies succeeded in a few exceptional cases. For the most part, the fronts that froze at the beginning of the war on the borders of the great European empires remained in place until the very end of the war, when one side ran out of vital resources or the will to fight to victory.

During the Second World War, the German army captured vast territories by striking before the enemy had time to mount a defense or bypassing such defenses.

The German army achieved extraordinary success in the war against the Soviet Union. But only because the Red Army was unwilling to defend itself. It was always trying to attack, from day one.

But as soon as the Red Army, taught by bitter experience, was on the defensive, the German military machine immediately began to stall. Examples: Kyiv, Leningrad, Moscow, Voronezh, Novorossiysk, Stalingrad, Kursk, and then everywhere. The German army was catastrophically unprepared for war. The German army had neither a theory of breaking down defenses nor the appropriate tools for this work.

3

In the first period of the war, the Red Army did not always succeed in breaking through the enemy's defenses. After the war, our strategists hid the plans for such operations with arrows that decisively cut through the enemy's rear in the deep bowels of inaccessible secret staircases. They hid them not only from their contemporaries, but also from future generations, passing off daring plans that failed to materialize as battles of local importance.

And when misunderstandings arose during the creation of the official version of the war, strategists would say: "Yes, we put hundreds of thousands of our soldiers in the ground here, burned millions of shells, lost thousands of tanks and airplanes, but we did not do this to break the enemy's defense, not to surround and defeat the enemy, but only to distract the attention of a small enemy force that was standing here on the defensive and not bothering anyone.

This is exactly what our great commanders did with regard to many of the bloody battles of 1942 and 1943. In their memoirs after the war, they gently referred to the shamefully failed offensive operations as "incomplete" or even declared them "delayed actions."

However, at the final stage of the war, the Red Army fully mastered the art of breaking through any defense. The recipe: concentrate 7-8 thousand guns in a chosen place. Density in the breakthrough areas - 300-350 guns per kilometer of front. The record is 468 guns per kilometer. Even before the artillery was concentrated, tens of thousands of tons of shells had to be brought to the firing positions.

All this firepower suddenly fell on the heads of the enemies.

Artillery training at the final stage of the war was usually quick - one and a half to two hours, or even less, but extremely intense.

Without a single break, artillery preparation turned into artillery support. That is, first, several hours of processing the front line. The moment the artillery preparation was completed was the moment the attack began. Heavy breakthrough tanks are in front, followed by dense infantry ranks, and heavy self-propelled vehicles behind them. The artillery's task is to lay down a shaft of continuous gaps ahead of the troops that are advancing.

The fire shaft could be double. From the first enemy trench, the first fire shaft rolled into the depths of the enemy defense. The enemy, having waited for the artillery preparation then the fire shaft, took up firing positions to repel the attack. However, the first shaft was followed by the second. And only then - tanks, infantry, self-propelled guns.

When the infantry with tanks and self-propelled guns advanced several kilometers through the enemy's defense, tank and mechanized corps or even tank armies were engaged through the gap.

Ideally, a "clean breakthrough" should have been made, i.e., to break the enemy's defense to its fullest depth so that tank and mechanized formations would not have to spend energy on completing the breakthrough, but would be free to enter the operational space without obstacles.

The method is excellent. However, it had serious drawbacks. First of all, it was a terrible waste of material resources.

During the war, the Red Army mainly used to break the enemy's defense: 76-mm ZIS-3 guns. The weight of a high-explosive fragmentation projectile is 6.2 kg; 120-mm mortars. The weight of a mine is 15.9 kg; 122-mm howitzers M-30. The weight of the projectile is 21.7 kg; 122-mm A-19 guns. The weight of the shells is 25 kg; 152-mm howitzers M-10 and D-1. The weight of the shells ranges from 40 to 51 kg; 152-mm ML-20 howitzers. The weight of the projectile is from 43.6 to 56 kg; 160-mm mortars. The weight of a mine is 41 kg; 203-mm howitzers Б-4. The weight of the high explosive shell - 100 kg, and 146 kg for a concrete piercing projectile; 280-mm Br-5 mortars. The weight of the projectile is 246 kg; 305-mm Br-18 howitzers. The weight of the projectile is 330 kg.

Each projectile needs a shell casing and a charge. Shells, cartridges, detonators, and charges are transported in good quality and sturdy, heavy wooden boxes.

Even one million shells, shell casings, detonators, charges, and packaging are tens of thousands of tons. All of this must be produced using thousands of tons of ferrous and non-ferrous metals, hundreds of tons of explosives, and the titanic labor of huge human masses. What does the production of detonators alone cost?

All of this has to be loaded into railroad cars and delivered to railroad stations, unloaded from the cars, loaded onto trucks, sent to frontline warehouses, unloaded again, then loaded and sent to army warehouses, and unloaded. After that, there are corps, division, and regimental warehouses. And only then - firing positions.

Loading and unloading was done manually, as usual. Thus, tens of thousands of tons of ammunition had to be transported for artillery training in just one offensive operation, on just one front.

The second serious drawback of this method of breaching the defense was that it required too much time to concentrate forces and very painstaking planning of combat operations. Logistical support, i.e., the transportation of tens or even hundreds of thousands of tons of ammunition, fuel, engineering equipment, and spare parts, was, of course, the most difficult operation.

For example: during the preparation of the Vistula-Oder operation, intra-front and intra-army transportation on the 1st Belorussian Front alone amounted to 923.3 thousand tons (Soviet Military Encyclopedia. - Moscow: Voenizdat, 1976. - Vol. 2. - P. 148).

Preparing a major offensive operation required at least a month and a half to bring in supplies and train troops.

The enemy was not sleeping either. He struck at our troops when they were concentrated. Because they were gathering so many of them that it was impossible to miss: you would hit someone anyway.

The enemy was trying to determine the date and time of the Red Army's offensive by many signs, and if they succeeded, they quietly withdrew their troops to other positions at the last minute. Only small detachments of guards, reinforced by tanks and artillery, remained on the front line. In this case, the power of the Red Army's artillery strike fell on almost empty trenches. Our troops, having wasted tens of thousands of tons of shells, went on the offensive, but after walking a few kilometers, they suddenly came under the crushing fire of the enemy's main forces.

To avoid this, Soviet commanders conducted battlefield reconnaissance before each offensive. That is, they probed the enemy's defense with a shell and bayonet.

Reconnaissance by combat was usually conducted on a wide front in order not to reveal breakthrough areas to the enemy before the offensive began.

6

Zhukov reported on how combat reconnaissance was conducted at the final stage of the war at a secret military-scientific conference of the senior commanders of the Soviet Army Group in Germany in December 1945. The conference materials were declassified 40 years later and published in a special issue of Military Thought in 1985.

Here is Zhukov's story about a small episode of the 1st Belorussian Front's fighting during the Warsaw-Poznan Offensive:

> "Conducting a 30-minute artillery attack to support the actions of a special echelon, we used a lot of artillery to prevent the enemy from figuring out our method of attack. We could have used 400,000 shells from the stockpile allocated for the breakthrough to support this echelon's actions and not lost anything."

This is not yet artillery training. This is just an overture. This is just a preliminary short fire attack to support the actions of a special echelon of troops. It's a kind of warm-up, involving a significant amount of artillery, but the consumption of ammunition is insignificant - only 400 thousand shells.

The artillery works for only half an hour, firing 13,300 shells every minute.

This is something that is not a pity to throw away in support of the actions of a special echelon, without losing anything.

Half an hour of intense fire in the front line, followed artillery fire in the depths, and then a special echelon of troops, generously reinforced by breakthrough tanks and heavy self-propelled vehicles, are engaged in the battle. This is battlefield reconnaissance.

The task of the special echelon is to determine by its actions whether the enemy keeps its main forces on the front line or has withdrawn them to the rear lines of defense, holding the front line only with small mobile units.

The actions of the special echelon made it possible to clarify the outline of the front line, to identify the enemy's fire system and minefields.

Artillery preparation for a defense breakthrough was carried out in several ways. Battlefield reconnaissance provided the front commander with an answer to the question: which option of artillery training would be more effective in this situation.

Reconnaissance by combat was carried out a day or two before the offensive. Or a few hours before it. Sometimes the offensive was launched immediately after reconnaissance without any break.

7

400,000 shells of various calibers are something like 12-18,000 tons, flying into the ground and tearing its surface to pieces with a roar and roar. These are hundreds of millions of red-hot steel fragments that whistle out. Fast and abundant.

While the artillery was performing the overture, a special echelon was taking its "one hundred grams with a trailer".

As the artillery fire moves deeper into the first trench, the Guards heavy tank breakout regiments and the Guards heavy self-propelled artillery regiments rattle through the first trench. After them, a special echelon rises from the trenches. This echelon does not shout "Hurrah!". It covers with a hoarse mat.

The Guards heavy breakthrough tank regiments are IS-2 tanks. The Guards heavy self-propelled artillery regiments are self-propelled guns ISU-152.

In 1943, during the development of the IS-2, the most powerful tank of the Second World War, the choice of weapon fell on the 122-mm A-19 gun. The most powerful tank in the world had to have the most powerful tank gun. The A-19 was modified in accordance with the requirements for installation on a tank and was called the D-25T. The shells of this gun - see above - weigh 25 kilograms each.

A self-propelled gun was created to provide fire support for these tanks. The base is the same as that of the IS-2 tank, but instead of a rotating turret, it has an armored wheelhouse, i.e. a box welded from heavy armor plates. By abandoning the rotating turret, the designers significantly reduced the horizontal aiming angles of the gun. If necessary, the entire combat vehicle had to be turned toward the target.

However, the abandonment of the turret in favor of an armor box made it possible to significantly increase the strength of the entire structure and reduce the silhouette. With all the weight and running characteristics preserved, it became possible to install an even more powerful gun in the armor box. And the choice fell on an outstanding technical creation of the twentieth century - the ML-20 152-mm howitzer gun. The hybrid of the IS-2 tank and the ML-20 152-mm howitzer was called the ISU-152.

The rejection of the rotating turret did not make the ISU-152 more vulnerable. The fact is that these units interacted closely with tanks. The chain of tanks is ahead. Self-propelled guns are the second wave.

Tanks are like outstretched fingers that groped for the enemy's vulnerabilities in the darkness. Self-propelled guns are a crushing fist.

Having found the enemy, the tanks gave way to self-propelled guns. And they directly hit the revived firing points with shells weighing 43 kilograms.

During the war, German soldiers called the ISU-152 a can opener - Dosenoffner. German soldiers considered their tanks to be cans in situations where the villainous fate brought them together with the ISU-152 in battle.

In all major offensive operations, the same special echelon invariably followed the shaft of artillery fire, heavy tanks and self-propelled guns.

KEY POINT

Now imagine how enthusiastic Soviet marshals and generals were in 1949 about the news that the Soviet Union had created an atomic bomb!

You just have to do it once, and you have a clean breakthrough!

No more months of concentrating troops on bridgeheads! There is no need to have ten thousand guns in the breakthrough areas!

There is no need to spend tens of thousands of tons of shells to break down the defense!

There is no need to spend hundreds of thousands of shells to support the actions of the special echelon!

And a special echelon is no longer needed!

Section 14

1

Today we are all literate. We all understand what a special echelon is. But in another hundred years, a future historian will scratch the back of his head and wonder what it is.

He will open the "Soviet Military Encyclopedia" published by Viyskovidat in 1976-80, i.e. during the heyday of Zhukov's personality cult, but he will not find answers. He will find the meaning of terms "special departments", "first echelon", "second echelon". But he learns nothing about the special echelon.

Then the historian will open the "Short Dictionary of Operational and Tactical and General Military Words (Terms)." This dictionary was signed for publication on August 12, 1957, at a time when Marshal of the Soviet Union Zhukov was Minister of Defense of the USSR and a member of the Presidium of the CPSU Central Committee. Moreover, he was then the winner of all battles for power and the master of the situation.

However, this dictionary does not mention a special echelon either.

The future historian will have no choice but to turn to Zhukov's memoirs. But there is no explanation there either. Because Zhukov spoke about the special echelon at a secret meeting in 1945, and his memoirs were published 24 years later and are intended for the masses, who do not need to be informed about the special echelon.

2

A special echelon was the penalty companies and battalions. They were created in accordance with Comrade Stalin's order No. 227 of July 28, 1942. The order was as follows:

> "...To form 3-5 well-armed outpost detachments within the army, up to two hundred people in each, to place them in the immediate rear of unstable divisions and to oblige them to shoot panic and cowards on the spot in case of panic and disorderly withdrawal of divisions...".

The outpost detachments were in place from the first day of the war. It was only in the summer of 1942 that Stalin openly announced their existence and significantly increased their number.

At that time, the Armed Forces already had more than seven dozen combined arms and shock armies. Therefore, the number of barrier detachments was counted in hundreds.

The same order created penalty companies as part of the combined arms and shock armies, and penalty battalions as part of the fronts.

The penalty companies were directly subordinated to the army commanders. Each army could have up to a dozen or more such companies.

Example: In 1942, the 54th Army had ten penalty companies.

In the same year, the 63rd Army (transformed into the 1st Guards Army on November 1, 1942) had eleven penalty companies.

Penal battalions were initially created at the fronts and were subordinate to the front commanders. Soon, they were also created as part of armies. Example: In 1943, the 56th Army, in addition to penal companies, had seven penal battalions.

The penalty units had a permanent and variable composition.

The permanent staff includes platoon, company, and battalion commanders and their deputies, staff officers, company commanders, and medical personnel. On

brave, competent, strong-willed officers were appointed to command positions. The service is difficult and risky, but highly valued and generously paid. Service in these special units is a springboard to high command positions.

The commanders of penal units and subunits had enormous power. They were authorized to apply any measures of influence to their subordinates, up to and including execution on the spot for disobeying orders, maiming, fleeing the battlefield, or attempting to defect to the enemy.

> "The commander and military commissar of the penalty company had the authority of the division commander and military commissar in relation to the penalty officers."
>
> *(Chervona Zvezda. - 2007. - April 11-17)*

The job categories of the permanent staff of penal units were one step higher than in regular units. That is, a platoon commander was a captain, a company commander was a major, and a battalion commander was a colonel.

In addition, there is not one officer in each platoon, but two. In addition to the platoon commander, there is also a deputy. The staff category of the deputy platoon commander is senior lieutenant.

For all permanent personnel of penal units, every day of service counted as six. If you serve a year, you'll get six. If you are alive.

The period of service in the ranks for officers was halved, and their salaries were doubled (Krasnaya Zvezda. - 2007. - April 11-17).

The permanent officers of the penal companies and battalions were promoted to unheard-of positions after completing their service in these special units. For the commanders of penal companies, the next position was regimental commander, and for the commanders of penal battalions, division commander.

For example: the commander of the 8th separate penal battalion of the 1st Belarusian Front, Colonel O. Osipov, surrendered his battalion and received a division (Krasnaya Zvezda. - 2005. - April 2). This is a common practice.

And rightly so. Such officers have a huge experience of bloody battles. They always acted in the most important areas and were admitted to the plans of very high command. Commanders of penalty units

companies and battalions received combat orders directly from the commanders of armies or even fronts.

If each of them was able to subdue a company of penal servicemen, he could handle a regiment. If he commanded a penal battalion, he could certainly command a division.

3

The replaceable personnel of the penal battalions, who were directly subordinate to the front commanders, were Red Army officers who were sent to the penal battalions to atone for their mistakes, misdeeds, and crimes by way of punishment. They were stripped of their military ranks and awards and dressed in second-hand soldier's clothing. They all became privates. As an incentive, they could be promoted to the rank of corporal or sergeant.

Officers were sent to penal battalions following court martial sentences. If you served your time, you got your officer's rank back, pinned orders on your uniform, and fought until victory. The term of service in a punitive battalion is from one to three months. Or until first blood.

If you shoot yourself or ask a friend shoot you lightly, both of you are shot on the spot. Without a trial.

If you are wounded in battle, even on the first day, it means you have atoned for your guilt, it means your criminal record is cleared, you are evacuated to an officer's hospital - here are your orders, here are your shoulder straps. You serve your time, get back on your feet, go back to where you came from, and don't get caught up with us again.

However, being wounded is a dream. Often, instead of being wounded, you die. You remember from Oleksandr Halych:

> And nothing is sweet to us but
> The battlefields in the moonlight
> They said it would be until first
> blood, but it turned out to be until
> death.

4

The army commanders were subordinated to penal companies and battalions, which were manned by guilty soldiers and sergeants, as well as prisoners of the NKVD Gulag. The procedure was the same: from one to three months. Or until first blood.

The procedure for referrals was different here - not only based on tribunal verdicts.

The commander of each division in the rear had the right to send any soldier or sergeant to the front to a penalty unit to atone for his or her guilt.

The commander of each regiment fighting at the front also received this right. Without consulting anyone, without asking anyone's permission, he gave a negligent soldier three months, and the rest were taught.

Penalty companies and battalions were used in the most difficult and dangerous areas of the front. In each offensive operation, they acted in a special echelon, i.e. in front of the first echelon of troops, taking on the fiercest enemy fire, clearing the way for the first echelon, and blazing paths through minefields.

High military ranks were awarded to the permanent officers of penal units not only for special conditions of service. There was another reason for this: penal companies and battalions were powerful combat units.

The permanent staff of the penalty company consists of 16 officers, including one operative of the Smersh counterintelligence unit (Krasnaya Zvezda. - 2007. - April 11-17).

Captain O. I. Timofeev served as a member of the penalty company from February 3 to October 10, 1943. This period is credited to him as 4 years and 8 months of service. He describes his company: five platoons of one hundred men each, with more than five hundred soldiers in the company. The company is constantly in combat. A new combat was assigned. The company fulfilled the task, the wounded
- to the hospital, the dead were buried. Immediately, an order was issued to accept a new recruitment of 224 people. All of them were Urks (Military History Journal. - 1996. - No. 3. - pp. 50-54).

5

An employee of the Central Museum of the Internal Troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, Major I. V. Kuzmichev, collected and published in the magazine "Sergeant" (No. 1 of 2000) information about the penal battalions and companies of the Red Army for the period 1942-1945. Dear Major, please accept my humble bow.

Thus, during the war, there were four penal battalions in the Red Army
65. Penalty companies - 1092.

I am not at all sure that the list is complete. And Major Kuzmichev himself does not insist on this.

Someone once spread a rumor that during the war 42,7910 penalty companies and battalions of the Red Army passed through the penalty companies and battalions. This was done either by mistake or with malicious intent. At one time, in a very closed educational institution, I had the opportunity to study military history. Not the one for the masses. I never complained about my memory. I memorized the figure I was once told clearly. We were given almost the same number. Only there was one more zero at the end. It was a minor difference.

The figure was given to us in order to show the psychological impact of Comrade Stalin's orders on the combat capability of the troops.

On the one hand, Stalin signed Order 227, and every major commander received free labor in his years to fulfill any impossible tasks of the war.

On the other hand, Stalin signed an order to send the negligent to penalty units, but what an educational effect this had on the rest of the Red Army! A simple and clear message was sent to everyone at once: you guys must obey your commanders' orders. Those who have not shown zeal are there, in a special echelon, clearing the way for you to win. God forbid - anyone can get there. So you have already done this...

I cannot confirm the information that the real figure is exactly one zero more than the officially announced one. But everyone can do the math.

First of all, hundreds of thousands of Soviet soldiers and officers were surrounded and escaped from them. They were passed through filtration camps. And then where did they go? That's right. Exactly there.

Second, millions of Soviet soldiers were taken prisoner. Some of them were released at the final stage of the war. Where to put them? That's right. All of them to the same place.

Thirdly, during the Red Army's retreat at the beginning of the war, hundreds of thousands of Soviet soldiers abandoned their weapons, scattered to the villages, and there. Then the Red Army went on the offensive. All the settlers were raked back into the ranks. And to which troops? Again, the same ones.

Fourth, 34 million people were drafted into the Red Army during the war. These people made mistakes, had offenses, and committed crimes. They were mercilessly driven to penalty units. Simply by the decision of the regimental commander. And there were many regiments in the Red Army. And every regimental commander was required to restore order and maintain discipline in his subordinate units. And in the summer of 1942, Comrade Stalin gave every commander of a combat regiment the right to bury any soldier or sergeant in a penalty company for a couple of months ahead of the combat formations of regiments and divisions without asking anyone's permission.

Do you think that the regimental commanders did not respect Comrade Stalin? Did you not exercise this right?

Fifthly, in the Gulag of the USSR NKVD (as well as in the GUTZDS, GUTSHS, etc.) there were healthy men with blue pictures painted on them. Everyone can count how many of them there were. A certain part of the total number went through the penal units. Do you think that Comrade Stalin did not use this potential in the war?

All these human masses do not fit into the number 427910. The person who put it into scientific circulation made a slight mistake. Only by one zero.

The number 427910 does not fit with the number of penalty battalions and companies that fought at the front. It corresponds neither to their number nor to the turnover of personnel.

Here is another almost unremarkable statistical fact. During the four years of the war, 2530663 Red Army soldiers were convicted by military tribunals. Of these:

for counterrevolutionary crimes - 471988; for

war crimes - 792192;

for general criminal offenses - 1266483.

This previously top secret information was first published by A. I. Muranov and V. E. Zvyagintsev (Dossier on the Marshal. - Moscow: Andreevsky Pravo, 1996. - P. 137).

Anatoly Muranov - Deputy Minister of Justice, Head of the Military Courts Department of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation, Colonel-General of Justice, State Counselor of Justice of the 1st Class, Honored Lawyer of the Russian Federation.

Vyacheslav Yegorovich Zvyagintsev - Head of the Department of Judicial Practice and Statistics of the Military Courts Department of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation, Colonel of Justice, State Counselor of Justice of the 3rd Class.

First-hand information.

This is the face of the liberating army from a slightly different perspective: during the war, the Red Army had two and a half million of its own criminals, not counting those who were brought to the war from the Gulzhdia, GUAS, Golovgidrostroy, Gulag, and other similar structures.

During the four years of the war, the Red Army identified and convicted almost half a million counterrevolutionaries, not counting those who went to the Germans and fought under Hitler's banner.

Let's assume that half a million of the counterinsurgents found in the Red Army during the war were shot. But what happened to the other two million convicts?

As we have already found out, not only those who were convicted at the front, but also those who were imprisoned in camps were sent to penal units. In addition, people were sent to penal units not only and not so much by the decisions of tribunals as by the decisions of regimental, brigade, and division commanders.

In war, you need to constantly reveal the enemy's fire system. No one has yet come up with a better way (if you don't count losses) to expose a fire system than reconnaissance by combat.

The Red Army was advancing throughout the war. From the very first day. When it was necessary to meet the enemy with an unbreakable defense, it advanced anyway! Since the summer of 1942, i.e., from the moment they appeared, penal units have become the tool that commanders of all ranks, from Zhukov on down, have used to

- constantly probed the enemy's defense with bayonets on all fronts, and its minefields with soldiers' boots.

6

Our generals and marshals did not tell us much about the penalty officers. More precisely, they didn't say anything. They found ways to avoid the slippery slope.

Penal battalions and companies were constantly used to conduct reconnaissance in combat. And when this was the case, our multi-star memoirists in their truthful works called these battalions and companies reconnaissance battalions. An example of the Berlin operation:

> "The offensive of the 1st Belorussian Front was preceded by combat reconnaissance, which... was conducted on April 14 and 15 by 32 reconnaissance detachments of up to a reinforced battalion each."
>
> *(Military History Journal. - 1980. -№ 5)*

This is Zhukov's work. To the left, Konev is conducting reconnaissance in the same way. And to the right, Rokosovsky.

Penal units participated in all the assaults, and in a special echelon. More precisely, ahead of the first echelon. If so, then in the memoirs they were called not only reconnaissance but also assault units. It is similar in meaning and sound.

The easiest thing to do is to call the 361st Separate Penal Company of the 5th Shock Army the 361st Separate Assault Company in your memoirs, for example. Let our descendants figure it out. It will not be easy for them to figure out that in the documents the penalty units were usually referred to by abbreviations - 39th OSS, 612th OSSR.

Or you can write a memoir without naming numbers. Army General Alexander Vasilyevich Gorbatov published his true memoirs 20 years after the defeat of Germany, in which, among other things, he enthusiastically told about the daring actions of a detachment of skiers. Another in forty years
"Krasnaya Zvezda (April 2, 2005) delicately clarified that the skiers' detachment was in fact the 8th Separate Penal Battalion.

7

Taking all of the above into account, let's evaluate Zhukov's memoirs once again.

> "Marshal Zhukov's Memoirs and Reflections, as well as the memoirs of other prominent Red Army commanders, are the reliable military history of the Great Patriotic War that should be studied to educate a new generation of Russian citizens."
>
> *(Chervona Zvezda. - 2009. - December 15)*

Oh, is that so!

The order to create penalty companies and battalions was signed by Stalin himself. And the provisions on penalty battalions and companies were announced in the order of the NKO of the USSR of September 28, 1942, No. 298. And Zhukov personally signed this order.

That is, Comrade Stalin, People's Commissar of Defense (he did not have a military rank at the time), ordered the creation of the unit.

And that's it.

And the First Deputy People's Commissar of Defense, Army General Zhukov, conveyed Stalin's order as a full-fledged instruction to commanders of all ranks: who and whom to send to penal units, for what and for how long, what rights and privileges to grant to the permanent staff of penal units, how to use penal officers, and so on.

Zhukov was not only the author of Order No. 298, but also the main consumer of energy in penal units. No one in the entire war crippled and killed as many penalty units as he did.

Many years after the war, Zhukov's memoirs were published. With each new edition, they become more and more truthful. Question: In which edition did Zhukov talk about the outpost detachments? In which edition are penal companies and battalions mentioned? At least in one phrase?

And they, starting in September 1942, cleared the way for the first echelons of troops in ALL offensive operations without exception

operations. Zhukov personally planned the use of special echelons, but forgot to tell us about it.

Is this the "reliable military history of the Great Patriotic War" that should be studied to educate a new generation of Russian citizens?

KEY POINT

I have mentioned the penalty companies and battalions in passing only to explain the meaning of the concept of "special echelon." In one of the many offensive operations, on one front alone, and there were ten active fronts in the final stage of the war, Zhukov used 400,000 shells to support the special echelon. Zhukov stated that 400,000 shells weighing from 6 to 330 kilograms each

- is something that can be freely thrown away without losing anything. 400,000 shells are only enough to support the actions of a special

echelon. Can anyone imagine the amount of ammunition needed not only to delay the actions of the penalty shooters, but to completely break down the defense?

After the war, Soviet strategists received nuclear weapons. And the problem of breaking through enemy defenses became much easier. Two or three nuclear strikes on the enemy's front line - that's a "clean breakthrough." The main thing is to quickly take advantage of these gaps. The main thing is not to allow the enemy to close these gaps.

If the masses of tanks, motorized infantry and self-propelled artillery break out into the operational space, there is hardly anyone who can stop them. And then - forward to victory!

In September 1954, the "Snowball" military exercise was conducted to test theoretical assumptions in practice.

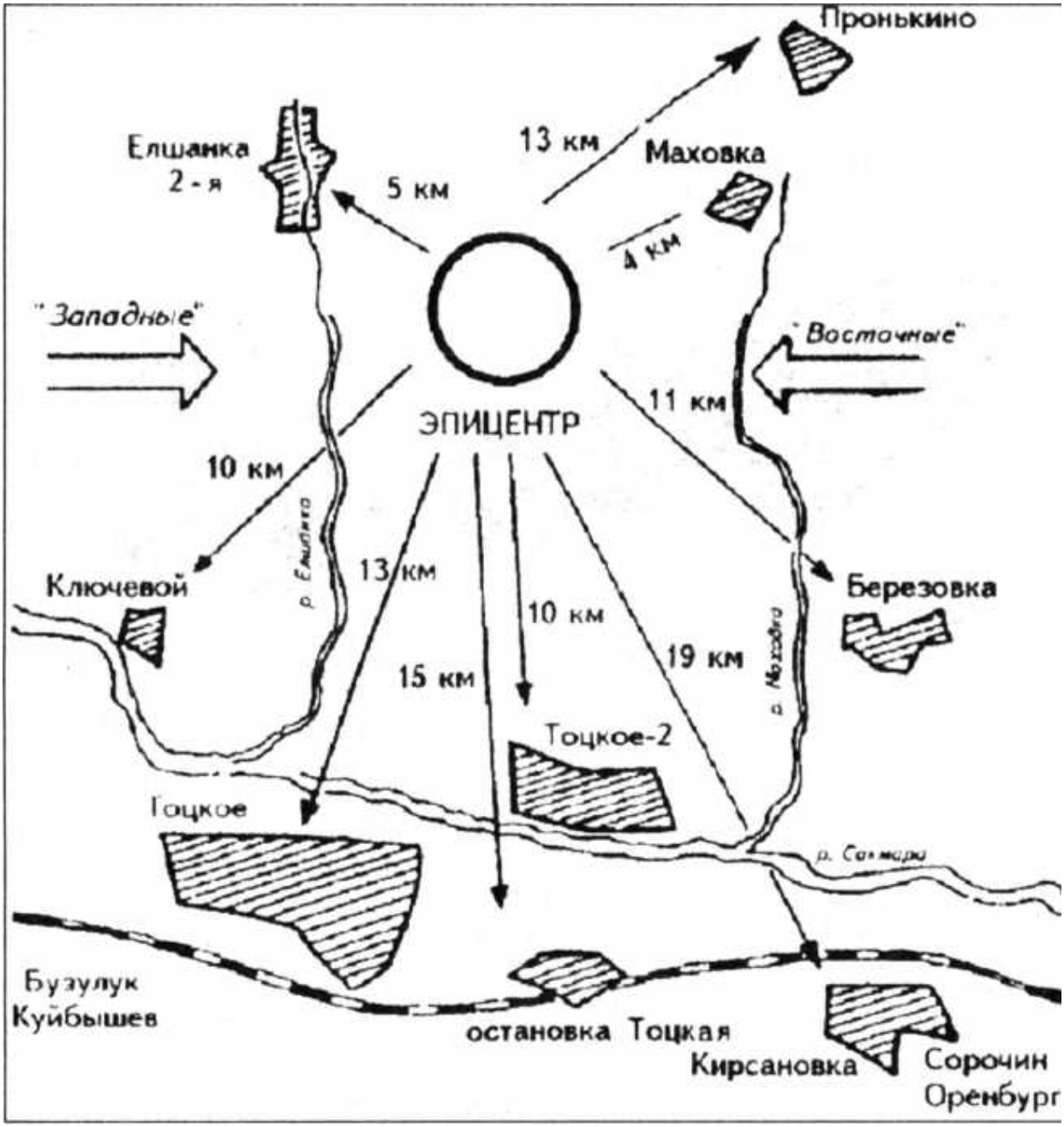
Section 15

1

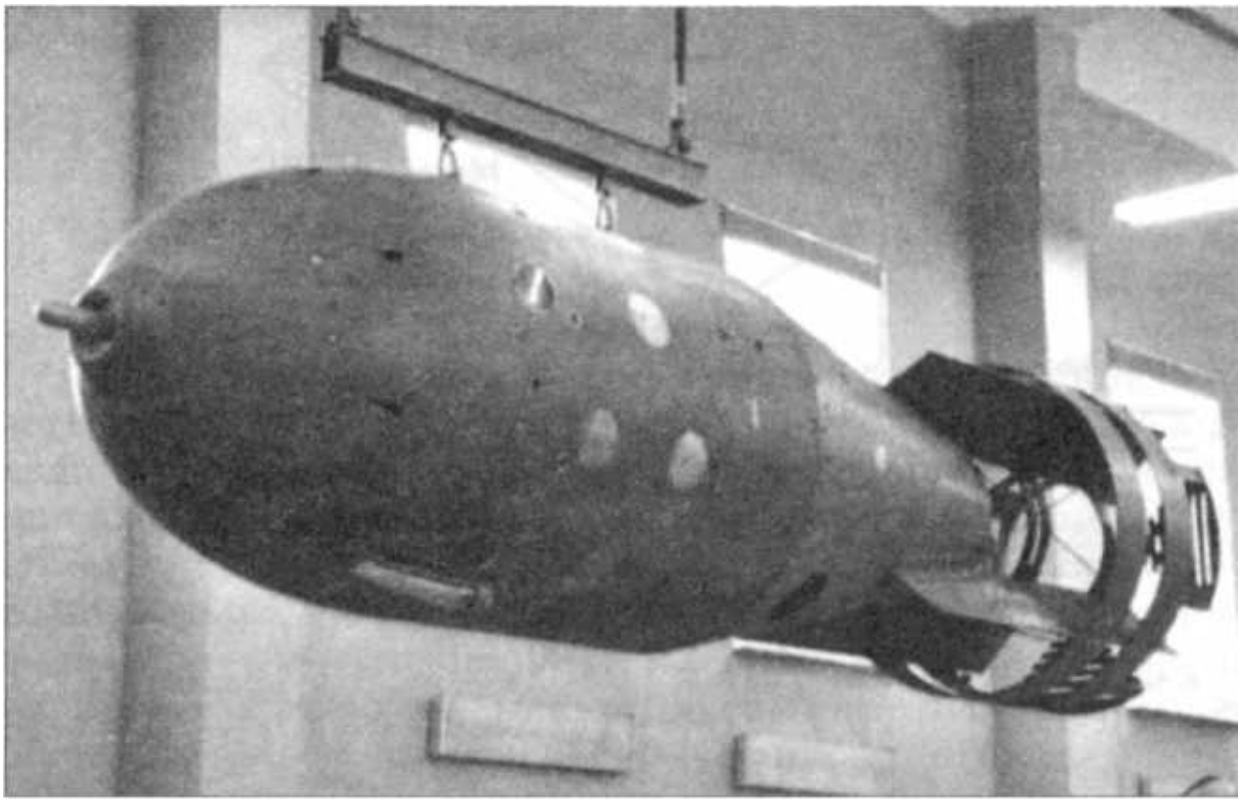
The 7th Rifle Corps of the South Ural Military District set up a field defense on the ground. The corps was withdrawn five kilometers from the defense area, leaving hundreds of tanks, armored personnel carriers, guns, and mortars in position, replacing soldiers in trenches and dugouts with cows, horses, and sheep. Behind the prepared defense, it was planned to launch three nuclear strikes in succession, creating a corridor for the attackers. The second and third strikes were simulated by blowing up hundreds of barrels of gasoline that were stacked in specially dug pits. The first nuclear strike was a real one.

Nuclear strikes are battering rams that break through the walls of a fortress. They break through so that our troops can break through the enemy's oppressed strongholds into the enemy's rear, break through the breach, through the epicenter of a nuclear explosion.

The Totsk landfill. Well, isn't that Europe?



Nuclear testing scheme



IDS-4 Tatiana bomb. 38 kilotons

The training lasted only one day - September 14, 1954. The terrain was chosen to match the typical Central European countryside: hills, hollows, forests, groves, fields, and a fairly high population density. The village of Makhivka (173 households) is located 4.5 km from the center of the target.

Orlivka (87 yards), Ivanivka (62 yards) and Yelshanka-2 (143 yards)
- 5 km from the center of the target.

The village water wells are open, mine-type. The school in the village of Yelshanka is 6.6 km from the center of the target.

The carrier is a Tu-4A. RDS-4 "Tatiana" bomb. The yield is 38 kilotons. That is, Hiroshima and Nagasaki combined and a little more. Drop from an altitude of 8000 meters. Detonation - at an altitude of 350 meters.

Realism of the exercises is as high as possible.

2

According to the plan of the exercise, the "Westerners" created a powerful defense line.

"The Easterns were preparing a breakthrough in the defense.

The "eastern" troops took part in the exercises:

command and staff of the front with a signal regiment. The front headquarters was formed of generals and officers of the command and staff of the Carpathian Military District. The "Eastern" front was headed by Marshal of the Soviet Union I. S. Konev, Commander of the Carpathian Military District.

Colonel-General V. I. Kostylev was the Chief of Staff of the front.

The Chief of the Front Intelligence was Lieutenant General X. D. Mamsurov;

management and headquarters of the 25th Army with a separate battalion of communications.

The army commander is Colonel-General P.O. Belov.

The first echelon of the 25th Army's operational structure is the 128th (real) and 15th (conventional) rifle corps.

The 25th Army was tasked with breaking through the Western front during a frontal offensive and delivering a major strike on Ulyanovsk and an additional one on Kuibyshev.

Ulyanovsk and Kuibyshev were imagined as something like Düsseldorf and Cologne, with the Volga playing the role of the Rhine.

The task of a supporting strike was assigned to the 128th Rifle Corps, which had the 12th Guards Mechanized and 50th Guards Rifle Divisions (in reality) in the first echelon, and the 51st Rifle Division (notionally) in the second.

Reinforcement of the case (real):

The 10th Gumbien Artillery Division of the Suvorov and Kutuzov Orders of the RVGK breakthrough (2nd Guards and 47th Howitzer Artillery Brigades, 154th Heavy Howitzer Artillery Brigade, 16th Heavy Mortar Brigade);

The 27th Guards Order of Kutuzov Army Gun Artillery Brigade (part of the Moscow Military District);

5th Guards Order of Alexander Nevsky Engineer Brigade.

The offensive was supported (in reality):

The 140th Kutuzov Order of the Bomber Aviation Division (Il-28);

The 10th Guards Voronezh-Kyiv Red Banner Air Assault Division of the Orders of Suvorov and Kutuzov (MiG-15);

The 119th Nevelskoye Red Banner Fighter Aviation Division (MiG-17);

The 511th Yasnaya Separate Reconnaissance Aviation Regiment (IL-28R).

A total of 320 combat aircraft. The aviation formations and units arrived from the Odesa, Kyiv and Transcaucasian military districts.

Nuclear strike - on the second position of the enemy's defense.

The first position was struck by artillery. The bombardment began immediately after the shock wave and dust shaft had passed. The density was 133 guns per kilometer of breakthrough, and the duration of the fire attack was 25 minutes.

The density was less than at the final stage of the last war. However, larger caliber guns were used - 100-mm and 130-mm cannons, 160-mm and 240-mm mortars, BM-14 and BM-24 multiple launch rocket systems. The mode of fire was significantly increased.

In addition, and most importantly, the enemy troops defending the first position were to be affected by a nuclear explosion behind them.

At the time of the explosion, the Eastern aviation was supposed to be in the air, with fighters 30 kilometers from the epicenter and bombers 100 kilometers away. The task was to prevent the enemy from quickly closing the gap in the defense. To do this, a concentrated bombing strike was carried out, with a density of 218 tons per square kilometer of the area under attack.

The breakthrough of the defense was carried out by striking the adjacent flanks of two guards divisions in the direction of the epicenter in order to make the most effective use of the results of the atomic explosion.

As the offensive troops reached the third position, the enemy was successively hit with two more nuclear strikes of lower power. These strikes were simulated.

3

On August 3, 1954, two Tu-4A bombers landed at the Volodymyrivka airfield near the city of Akhtubynsk. The crew commanders were Major V. Kutyrchev and Captain K. Lyasnikov.

Akhtubinsk is located in the Astrakhan Oblast, but from Akhtubinsk, Stalingrad is within arm's reach, and Astrakhan is a little further away. The closest place to Akhtubinsk is Kapustin Yar. In army parlance, Kap-Yar, or Kapustino, is our very first missile range.

The fact that Kap-Yar and everything around it is a continuous restricted area means that you can safely place carriers, charges, and personnel here.

On August 12, the crews began training flights. They were accompanied by IL-28R reconnaissance aircraft, whose task was to record the parameters of the explosion.

On September 7, two Tatyana's were delivered to Volodymyrivna airfield by a special air ambulance.

On September 13, a bomb was hung under each of the two carriers.

On the morning of September 14, both carriers started their engines. The crews did not know who would fly. Full readiness for both. At 5:41 a.m., the head of the 71st Air Force training ground, Major General Aviation V. A. Chornoriz, gave the order for the Kutyrchev crew to take off.

At 6:00 a.m., Chornoriz reported through government communication channels to the head of the exercise, Marshal Zhukov of the Soviet Union, about the takeoff of the carrier.

The carrier was accompanied by two IL-28R reconnaissance aircraft. Several MiG-17 fighter squadrons, changing the route, guarded the carrier and the reconnaissance aircraft with orders to shoot down any aircraft that dared to approach the carrier without warning.

The second carrier, with the bomb suspended and its engines running, waited at the airfield until the first carrier reached altitude. After that, the second carrier was ordered to turn off the engines, but the second crew had to stay in the plane until the bomb exploded at the Totsk training ground.

It's a long and longing wait.

4

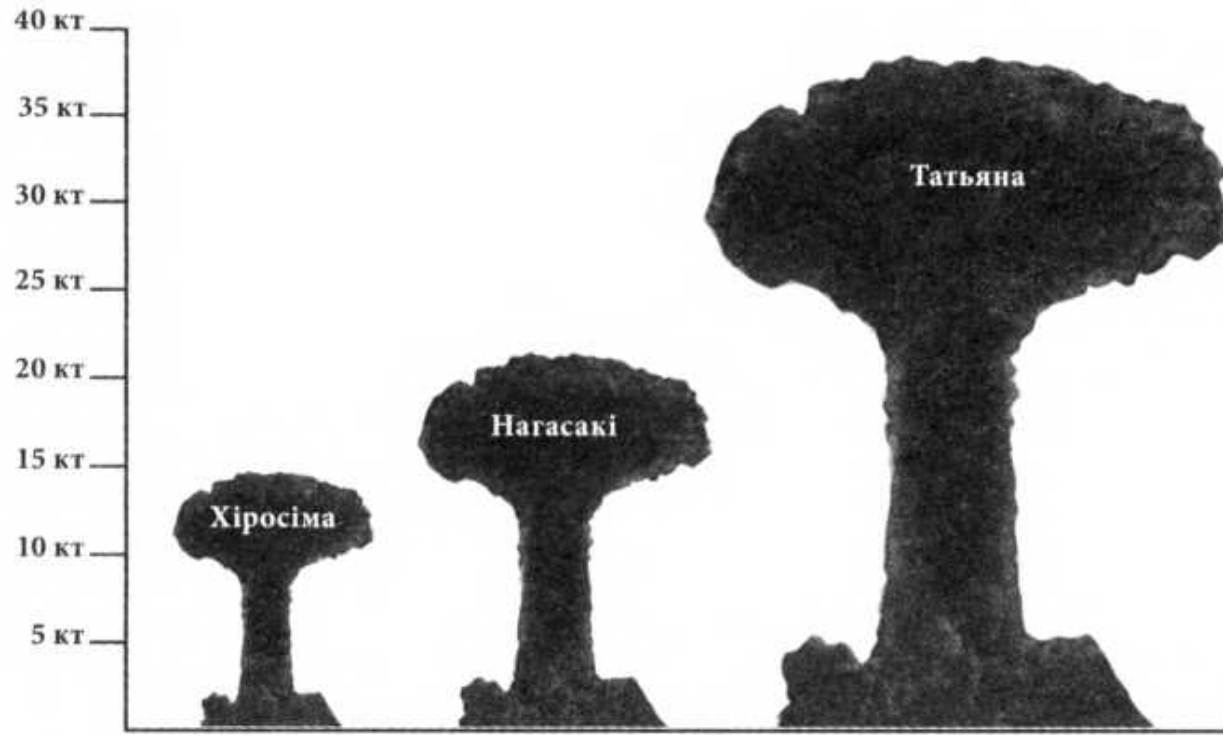
Major Kutyrchev: "I can see the target!"

Marshal of the Soviet Union Zhukov: "Carry out the task." Major Kutyrchev: "Roger that. I am working".

At 9 hours 33 minutes and 10 seconds, the villainous Tatiana quietly slid out of the carrier's bomb hatch and rushed to the ground with a slight whistle. After 48 seconds, it reached the target altitude.

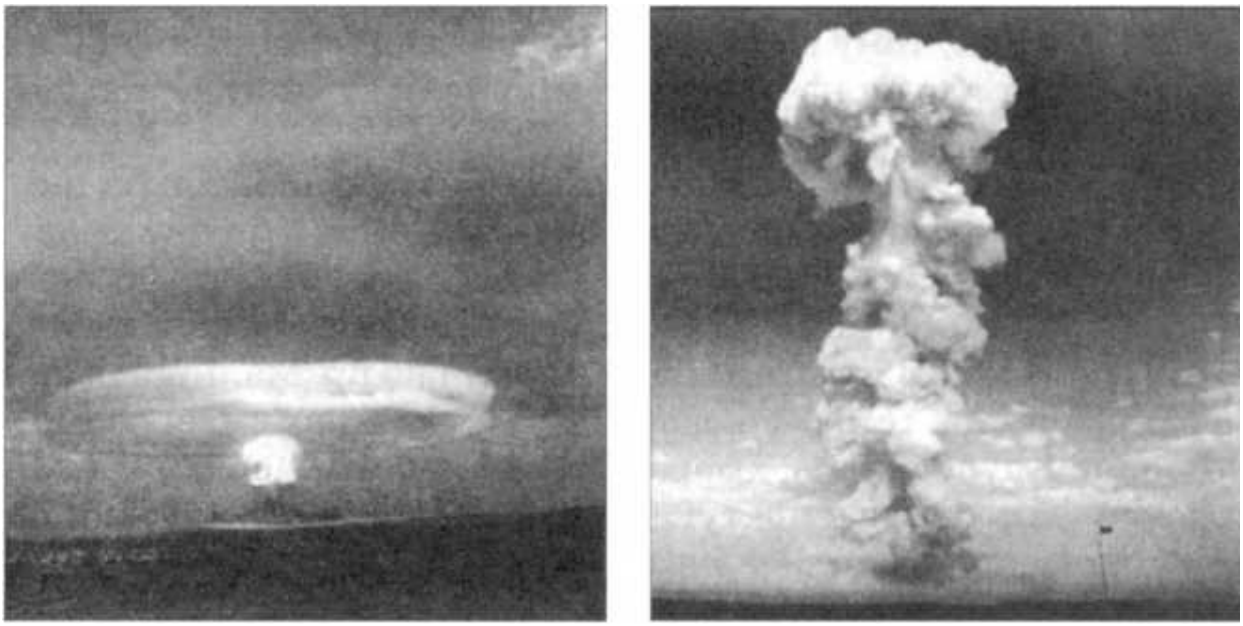
And it thundered.

Four years later, Austrian writer Robert Jung would publish his famous book about American and Western European nuclear scientists. He will call the book Brighter than a Thousand Suns. This is perhaps the most imaginative, concise, and accurate description of a nuclear explosion. This is exactly what tens of thousands of participants in the Snizhok military exercise experienced. A blinding, incredibly bright flash for tens of kilometers illuminated the area with a dead-white light that could be compared to the flashes of electric welding.



Tatiana' explosion compared to Hiroshima and Nagasaki

At the point of the explosion, a fiery spherical light area appeared, horizontally measuring 713 meters. And it shook violently. It shook as if a hundred-meter steel pile had been driven into the rock with one blow. The earth's firmament with hills and river, ravines and fields, forests and groves, villages and churches, tanks and guns shook. Tens of thousands of human souls were shaken. The earth seemed to shift, to go underfoot, to sway like a wave on the sea.



Tatyana explosion at the Totsk test site

The first striking factor of a nuclear explosion is light radiation. This name is not entirely accurate. A nuclear explosion is a temperature of millions of degrees. It is not only a light but also a heat impulse that instantly ignited dried trees and bushes, paint on tank armor and thatched roofs in neighboring villages, and turned leaves in distant groves black, wrinkled and crumbled.

A shock wave followed the light pulse, outrunning its own sound, crushing and breaking everything in its path, tearing down towers and throwing fifty-ton tanks upward with their tracks like fluff, blowing away armored personnel carriers and artillery tractors.

The speed of the shock wave at the initial stage is supersonic. Therefore, the roar that tears the eardrums is somewhat behind, delayed.

The terrible temperature of the explosion instantly evaporates moisture over tens of square kilometers, and the soil turns into radioactive dust. That's why the shock wave is followed by an elastic, cross-sectional dust shaft 200 meters high.

The explosion burned millions and dispersed billions of cubic meters of air, so there is a vacuum in the epicenter. And this emptiness, like a vacuum cleaner, pulled in all those millions of cubic meters of dust that had just been blown around and scattered in all directions.

The fireball pulsed, boiled and shuddered, as if reluctantly turning into a huge, half-heavenly, bright cloud, spewing blinding red and black vortices. The buzzing red flames from below propped up and pushed up the satanic mess of smoke and fire. The cloud changed shape and color. The crimson tones turned into maroon, then into ash gray and blue-black. Swirling, the cloud was rapidly gaining height, carrying away columns of soil and dust from the ground.

That's when the artillery hit!

This is where aviation has shone with its power! The strike is not by units, not by squadrons, but by regiments! Three regimental bomber strikes simultaneously: to the left of the explosion, to the right and behind it! At 9:55 a.m., 21 minutes after the explosion, 39 IL-28 bombers and 6 MIG-17 fighters at an altitude of 7 kilometers slipped through the trunk of the radioactive cloud, through the dust column of the atomic mushroom!

The bombers carpeted their bombs. These were not separate explosions, but the simultaneous lifting of hundreds of tons of soil torn from the ground. Then came three regiments of jet attack aircraft and three more regiments of fighters. They came in waves over the ground with deafening whistles and roars. They fired hundreds of automatic guns at those who could still survive in this man-made hell.

The explosions of artillery shells and airplane bombs merged into a stunning symphony of war, a hymn to the unstoppable power of our victorious army!

And as soon as the artillery subsided a little, radiation reconnaissance patrols rushed to the epicenter, breaking through the storms and fires, on tanks. At 10:13 a.m., 40 minutes after the explosion, they were at the epicenter.

And they gave the !

And then two Guards divisions of the 128th Rifle Corps went into battle. At 12 o'clock, the advanced units of the "Eastern" reached the epicenter.

5

And what lies ahead is nothing like it was recently. There are no landmarks. The terrain is unrecognizable. A deserted gloomy field.

> "All that remains of the oak forest is a black pile of burnt pegs. The military equipment - ours and that of our probable opponents - is melted and torn to pieces. There were no trenches or shelters - the top layer of earth seemed to have moved. Everything was leveled. It was a terrible sight."
>
> *(Chervona Zvezda. - 1992. - July 9)*

The ground became loose. As if it had been plowed by virgin soil tractor drivers. And sifted it.

The ground was smoking. Closer to the epicenter, the ground was melted. The ground was covered with a glassy crust of molten sand. The ground was crunching and breaking like ice.

On the melted soil, there are torn-down tank turrets, crumpled armored personnel carrier hulls, and cannon muzzles tied in intricate knots.

Hiroshima after the nuclear bomb explosion. The Totsk test site looked almost exactly like this

The gap in the Western defense was surprisingly clear. There is no one to stop the offensive. Those who try to resist are met with a hurricane of artillery fire and a second air strike.

At 13.00, the "Easterners" launched a second, this time conditional, nuclear strike on the reserves of the "Westerners".

At 13.40, using the corridor created by the second explosion,
The "eastern" ones are moving forward with renewed vigor.

At 14.40, the "Easterners" launched a third, also conditional, nuclear strike.

The "Westerners" began to retreat, hiding behind smoke.

Section 16

1

Military exercises at the Totsk training ground in September 1954 had a downside. The key point was dropping the bomb. 3 character "We have read Tatiana in general, but we cannot ignore the medium.

Tu-16 or "Tusha, jet bomber, was introduced into service in 1954

In 1954, the Soviet Air Force entered service with Tu-16 jet bombers, commonly known as carcasses. These bombers are quite suitable for the destruction of cities, large industrial and transportation facilities in the enemy's deep rear.

However, all attempts to use the Tu-16 to strike at the strongholds of a notional enemy on the front line of defense, when their own troops were nearby, ended in complete failure.

In March 1954, a series of tests were conducted at the Totsk test site. The dummies (the official name is "size and weight equivalent") dropped from the Tu-16 did not want to land near the target. The deviations varied. Sometimes up to two kilometers.

And then Zhukov ordered the use of the slow-moving, obsolete Tu-4, which was not suitable for a real war.

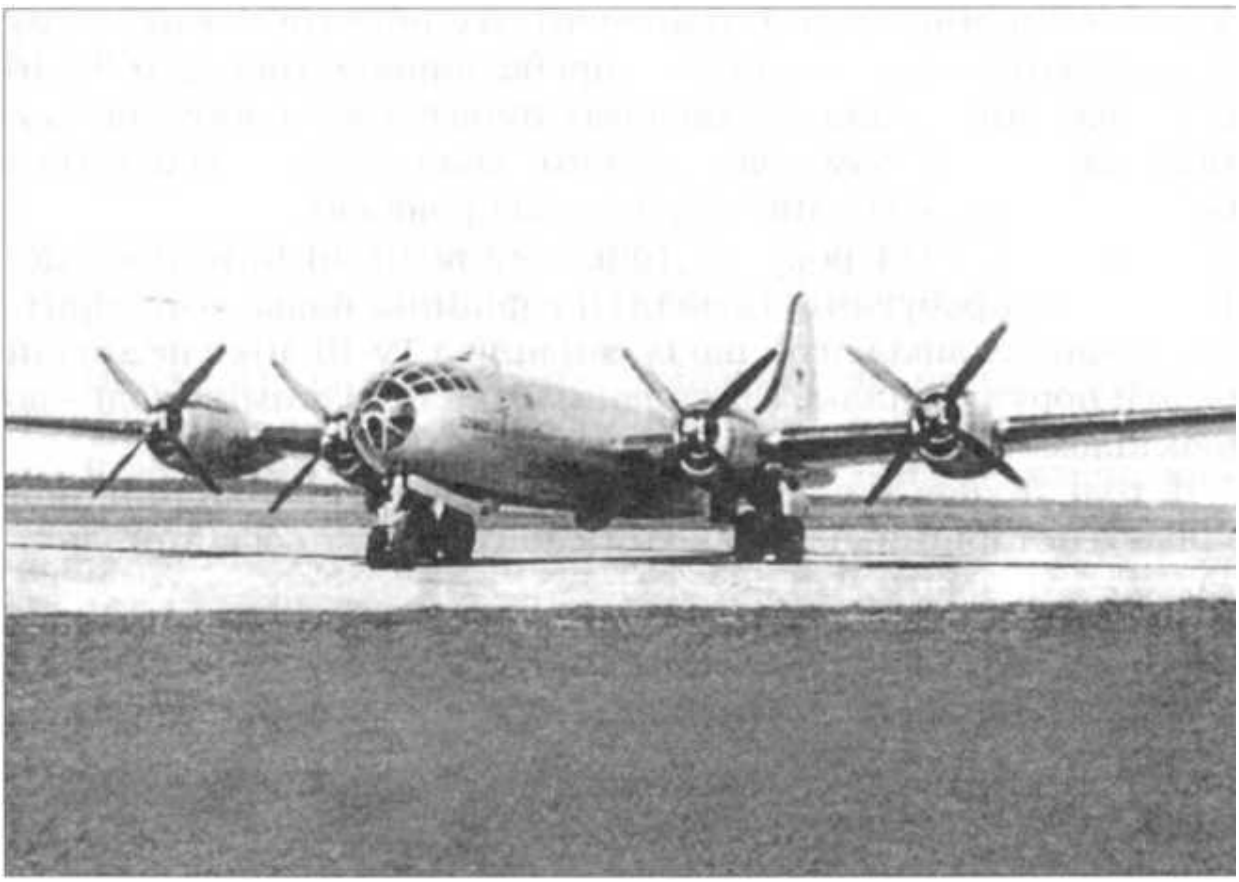
2

During the Second World War, the United States created the B-29, the most powerful strategic bomber at the time. It was designed under the leadership of the outstanding aircraft designer Assen Jordan. (Brothers Slavs, we are so talented!)

During the war, the Americans bombed Japan, suffering losses. At various times, five B-29s made forced landings in the Soviet Union for various reasons. Comrade Stalin did not return these planes to Uncle Sam, his ally. The planes were interned: we have a peace treaty with Japan, we remain neutral, we cannot violate the treaty, so we will not give the planes to America until the end of the war.

If you wanted to, you could give it at least as a token of gratitude for the four hundred thousand of the world's best military vehicles, without which the Red Army's victories would have been impossible. How would the Japanese know what happened to the planes that were bombed over Japan and went over the horizon? But Comrade Stalin was a man of principle.

Meanwhile, the airplanes were dismantled. On the orders of Comrade Stalin, Tupolev began to copy them. Comrade Stalin somehow did not take into account the fact that interned aircraft could not be disassembled. The fact that after the war the planes had to be returned to their owners was also not taken into account. We were strictly observing international laws.



A Tu-4 bomber, a copy of the American B-29, adopted in 1949. Outdated at the time of its creation

But only long as it is profitable for us.

The B-29 was copied, renamed the Tu-4, and the Soviet industry began mass production. However...

However, copying means falling behind. We are only trying to do what someone else already has, and meanwhile they are creating something new, moving forward.

Moreover, the B-29 is the pinnacle of piston-engine combat aircraft. Aviation is a rapid, constant evolution. But there have also been revolutionary changes. The main one is the transition from piston to jet engines. This change can be compared to the transition from the sailing fleet to the steam fleet. And this turning point occurred just as Tupolev was taking on Stalin's order.

The era of jet aircraft began during World War II. Immediately after the war, the time of piston engines on combat aircraft was over. They had sung their song. When Tupolev first picked up a pencil,

to repeat what was created under the leadership of the great Bulgarian, the idea of a heavy bomber with piston engines is already completely outdated.

In the late 1940s, and even more so in 1954, a strategic bomber with piston engines looked like a sailing frigate with copper cannons amidst the smoke from the armadillo's chimneys.

If there had been a war in the mid-1950s, no one would have used a piston-engine airplane to deliver a nuclear charge to a real target.

But if you remove the Tu-4 from the scenario played out at the Totsk training grounds, the whole idea instantly loses its meaning. What was demonstrated to the dumbfounded foreign observers would have been impossible to repeat in a real combat situation: the high-speed Tu-16 could not bomb accurately without risking hitting its own, and the outdated slow-moving Tu-4 is not suitable for war.

In short, the magician Zhukov was demonstrating what he would never do in a real war.

The great and mighty, true and free Russian language has a very clear definition for such actions - ostentation.

3

The second point: in addition to the usual targeting techniques, the carrier's approach course was marked by orange smoke. The target itself was highlighted by a white circle within a radius of 150 meters. In the center of the circle is a white cross. The size of the cross is 100 square meters. The width of the stripes is 10 meters. There are corner reflectors in the center of the cross.

Let's think about it: why?

The answer seems obvious: to ensure the safety of the troops. It would not be good to miss during an exercise, to throw a bomb where tens of thousands of people and thousands of vehicles are concentrated for an offensive.

Let's agree.

Indeed, it would not be good to throw something at your troops during a training exercise that would make even Hiroshima terrified. But is it good to hit your own troops in a war?

And in war, there will be no corner reflectors in the center of the target, no white circle and no huge cross on the enemy's positions.

It is quite easy to hit a city, industrial or transportation hub, seaport or hydroelectric power plant. And even if the explosion is offset by a kilometer or two, it won't make a difference: the city will be out, the industrial giant will be destroyed and shut down, and masses of water from the reservoir will break through the dam and sweep away everything in its path.

But how does an airplane get to the front the line? How can you distinguish between your own and the enemy? There are trenches and trenches. And they are the same. And they are camouflaged. In addition to the real ones, there also fake ones, both ours and others. Everything is gray and green. There are no circles, crosses, or reflectors.

In training, we aim at the center of the cross. In war, where will we aim?

So, if the use of a slow-moving piston Tu-4 is a show, then the use of a circle and a cross is a double show. Showmanship squared (I almost said "in a circle").

4

But that's not all.

Major Kutyrchev's crew did not detect the target on the first pass.

"Tatiana" was dropped during the second .

What enemy in a war would allow a slow-moving piston airplane to circle over its front line?

The two best air force crews were chosen to drop the bomb. Since August 12 (a month!), they have been flying the same route and throwing the blanks into the same circle. After numerous attempts during training, both crews succeeded in making the inert bomb, which was equal in shape and weight to
"Tatyana" hit with an average deviation of 40-50 meters from the center of the target.

But how could the best crew hit the target from such a height in a war without dozens of previous training sessions?

By the way, the girl turned out to be capricious, with a temper. On September 14, 1954, the wayward "Tatiana" did not lie down in the white circle, despite all the training.

The bomb deflected 280 meters northwest of the center
goals.

5

Preparation for military exercises of this magnitude in the Soviet Army was always called ballet. Your humble servant has participated in the Dnipro military exercises for 13 years. True, that time they did not use a real bomb. However, the level of showmanship was almost as good as Zhukov's at the Totsk training grounds.

In September 1967, a pontoon bridge across the Dnipro River was built during the exercises. Both vehicles and railroad trains could move across the bridge at the same time. They were allowed to cross it. It was a stunning sight.

However, one detail spoiled the picture: under the locomotive, the bridge bent noticeably, but not under the cars. Why was that? Because the cars were empty. There was not a single open platform in the entire echelon. All the cars were covered. To let empty platforms run means to level the impression. And if the cars are covered, it creates the illusion of a real loaded train.

A convoy of cars was moving next to the train. But a single car kept close to the locomotive, as there was already a terrible bend under it. The cars were only going next to the wagons. Interestingly, they were driving not just any cars, but cars with boxes to give the impression that they were also carrying something. But if the wagons and cars were loaded, the bridge would have collapsed.

The Dnipro exercise was held in honor of the upcoming 50th anniversary of the October Revolution. The Soviet Union was playing with its inflatable muscles as usual. The hint was that if we go forward, no Rhine will save you bourgeoisies. We will force through any obstacle with combined arms and tank armies, and we will build bridges, including railroad bridges, in a matter of hours.

I shared my experience in the book "Stories of a Liberator".

Some people, who had not participated in the ballet, expressed doubt: is it possible to deceive inexperienced viewers so brazenly?

Perhaps citizens. Everything is possible in our country. Everyone can see for themselves. There are enough photos of that show to go around. No one hid them.

But the materials of the training in the Totsk camps will remain secret for six decades. Our strategists have something to hide.

6

The problems began long before the exercises. Summers in the Volga region and the Southern Urals can be fierce. Every day in the dry steppe is well over thirty. Tens of thousands of people are gathered in a giant camp. They train until they break a sweat. Ballet is ballet. It is impossible to provide everyone with clean water. So the first problem was dysentery. It plagued the camp in July. But you can't cancel an event that has been prepared for many months at considerable expense because of some dysentery.

By the way, someone announced that 45,000 soldiers and officers took part in the exercises. The simplest calculations give a different result.

45,000 is the offensive side (let's not forget the powerful reinforcement of the 128th Corps, assembled from various military districts, including an artillery division, artillery and engineering brigades, and many smaller units).

However, in addition to the attackers, there were those who had to stop them. Five kilometers from the epicenter, the 7th Infantry Corps, consisting of two divisions with reinforcements, was on the defensive. The defenders had to survive a nuclear explosion in their immediate vicinity in trenches, trenches, and dugouts. In addition, they had to be "ready to close the gap in the defense created by a nuclear strike" (Krasnaya Zvezda. - 1992. - July 9).

So why is the entire corps not included in the statistics?

Actions of troops during a nuclear attack. A poster released as a result of the Totsk exercise

In addition to ground troops, three aviation divisions and a separate aviation regiment participated in the exercise. For some reason, they were not included in the list of participants.

And everyone took their doses. "The Red Star July 19, 1996, has to admit:

> "As it turned out later, the soldiers who took part in the secret event, as well as local residents, received a considerable dose of radiation exposure."

same Red Star on July 9, 1992:

> "Such elementary precautions as decontamination of equipment, weapons and uniforms, were not applied. In

> A huge number of people participated in the exercises. No special medical monitoring of their health was established. Classified and forgotten, they lived as best they could without any attention from the state... Everyone signed a pledge to keep silent about it for 25 years."

- "Didn't a malicious slanderer make this up?" - "No!" - the central body of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation reports.

Not everything in those exercises was done over my head.

On the eve of the exercise, all participants were given new uniforms and new shoes from the warehouses.

It would seem that they should take a day off their old clothes, throw them off, wash themselves, and put on new ones.

But no. They had changed into new clothes and shoes the day before. The fighters and commanders went through the epicenter in the new clothes. Then they went to their garrisons in these pants, in these new gymnastics shirts, in these squeaky boots. Soon, they were to be demobilized. For most of them, the demobilization turned out to be early.

The participants had their hair cut two months before the exercise and then it was cut constantly. Some medics think it would be better for them to fight hairy, but immediately after the exercise, they cut everyone's hair, wash them well, put them in new clothes and shoes, and take them away from these damned places.

However, it was impossible to quickly disperse tens of thousands of people and thousands of vehicles using the small railroad stations in the area of the Totsk training ground. The camp, gradually winding down, remained until the end of October. Immediately after the exercises, dysentery spread through the troops again. But suddenly the doctors realized that another diseasesimilar to dysentery but not dysentery, was spreading at the same time.

Patients were taken from the Totsk training ground to hastily set up field hospitals in the Chkalov area. Because Chkalov was the headquarters of the South Ural Military District and its rear facilities, including a hospital base.

However, during the deployment of the field hospitals, one thing was not taken into account. On the morning of September 14, as the carrier approached the target, the wind direction changed. After the explosion, contrary to predictions, the radioactive cloud was carried not to the bare steppe, but in the direction of the city with the glorious name of Chkalov. Radioactive fallout does not fall in a continuous layer, but in spots, large and small. Everything seems to be clean, then suddenly, in a couple of hundred

kilometers from the epicenter, in a magical grove, there is a radioactive strawberry meadow. Or a spring. Or a brook. And again, it is clean.

> "The radioactive dust was raised to a high altitude by a hot mass of air with strong winds."
>
> *(Military History Journal. - 1991. - No. 12. - P. 86)*

The same field hospitals were set up between the Totsk training ground and the city of Chkalov (i.e., on or near the axis of the cloud).

After the last regiments left, the tents of the huge camp at the Totsk training ground were rolled up and put into strategic reserve.

7

Colonel General B. P. Ivanov is a participant of the exercise:

"The special team was at the epicenter for 40 minutes."

(Military History Journal. - 1991. - No. 12. - P. 85)

It's our custom: when we need to hide something, we use a term that can mean anything: special echelon, product 602, cargo 505, special group. What kind of group ended up the epicenter in 40 minutes?" The colonel general did not explain this.

This was told 45 years later by Mladlen Markovic, a former captain of the Soviet Army, a Serb by nationality. After World War II, officers from Poland, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and other countries that had fallen under Soviet control studied in the Soviet Union. There was a break with Yugoslavia. Those officers who returned home were imprisoned in Yugoslavia as Stalinist spies. Therefore, many of them stayed in the Soviet Union, took Soviet citizenship, and were enlisted in the Soviet Armed Forces.

Captain Markovic had a special role in the Totsk experiment. Because if he had died, no one would have remembered him.

Dosimetrist. From a poster released following the Totsk exercise

Captain Markovych was given a group of prisoners who were kept under heavy guard. He had to teach them how to measure radiation. The captain was given unlimited rights - to shoot on sight for any manifestation of disobedience.

This group of prisoners, led by Captain Markovich, was the first to visit the epicenter 40 minutes after the explosion. They were the ones who measured the level, gave the go-ahead, and returned to the camp.

> "I couldn't stand on my feet when they took away the prisoners, whose fate I knew nothing about. I was put on a bunk where I stayed for several days without any medical care. The degree of infection was not determined. I found out that my treatment was not part of the plans of the Totsk scenario only 40 years later, when, upon request, I received a photocopy of my archive , in which black

It is written in the white paper that I was "at the disposal of the commander of the North Caucasus Military District" from August 7, i.e. 37 days before the nuclear explosion. That is, very far from the place of those events...

It is not surprising that for the next half-century my fate, like the fate of thousands of "experimental subjects," was shaped by official disinformation and lies, sealed with "non-disclosure" agreements. If you open your mouth, you will immediately become a state criminal. And the whole 'state secret' is that to this day I do not have an apartment, that the army, which left me young and healthy, did not recognize my rights to treatment in its hospitals."

(Literaturna Gazeta. - 1999. - September 15)

Not only people, but also equipment was damaged. For show, artillery firing rates were exceeded. The load on each barrel exceeded the permissible limits, fired shells were welded to the , and ejectors did not work. By the end of the exercise, we had to knock out the shell casings with a crowbar and reassemble the bolts that literally fell apart after each shot. Of course, after such "operation" the guns were to be written off.

The barbaric exploitation during the months-long preparation for the ballet took its toll on tanks, armored personnel carriers, and cars.

Not only were tens of thousands of people subject to massive write-offs, but also thousands of state-of-the-art combat and transportation vehicles.

Beetle experts cheerfully report that local residents have been removed from the area of the explosion. We will not argue, but pigs, geese and chickens remained in the area. All of them were beaten, wounded, , and fried.

After the explosion, aunts on the roads threw stones and clods of earth at military convoys, considering the soldiers to be the culprits of their troubles.

After many years, Zhukov's defenders claim that the houses were restored and the residents were compensated for their losses. This is exactly what is written in the official reports that have been archived.

I would like to point out that we know how to prepare reports. And how our government deals with the consequences of natural and man-made disasters is better described in the following

ask those who have been in such disasters.

KEY POINT

The defenders of Zhukov's wisdom have come up with excuses for any of his deeds.

And here: the Americans also conducted exercises with the use of nuclear weapons with the participation of troops.

That's right. Only there were no tens of thousands of soldiers there. There were no villages five kilometers away from the training ground. There were no open mine-type wells and no school 6600 meters from the epicenter.

And besides, why are you, dear comrades, drawn to follow the example of the Americans? They are villains, arsonists, scoundrels, vampires! They came up with the Dulles plan to exterminate us, having previously corrupted us, to implant in us all the most base, vile, vulgar, and nasty things.

If we hadn't had the Dulles plan, we wouldn't have had bureaucracy, debauchery, prostitution, drug addiction, bribery, rudeness, theft, and drunkenness! It was that damned Dulles who ruined us with his plan. Without his evil plans, we would all be intelligent, honest, kind and gentle!

So let the enemies do whatever they like. Let them even chop their soldiers with axes. Why do you have to imitate villains? Is it not enough to take up a good cause of your own?

And if we are to imitate them, then in everything. It would be better to follow their example and provide our officers with housing.

Zhukov did not have the mind for such feats. After all, he himself was provided with living space as needed.

Section 17

1

Our own propaganda describes the training at the Totsk training ground from two poles.

Or an outstanding achievement, and only the great Zhukov was capable of such a feat!

Or a terrible crime, and only the scoundrel Beria was capable of such villainy!

short, if it is an achievement, then thank Zhukov, if it is a crime, then anyone but Zhukov is to blame.

Here are some examples.

The Hero of the Soviet Union, Marshal of the Armored Forces Losik is full of admiration for Zhukov's achievements:

> "He made, in fact, a revolution in operational and combat training. Under his leadership, in September 1954, the first military experimental exercises with the practical use of nuclear weapons were conducted at the Totsk test site."
>
> *(Chervona Zvezda. - 1996. - December 28)*

Here is the opposite approach:

> "The choice of the test site was not a mistake - it was criminal. It is difficult to find a more populated region than the area between the Volga and the Urals on one-sixth of the world's landmass. Just as it would be difficult to choose a more fertile soil or a river as beautiful as the Samara, which is 600 kilometers long and, in the city of Samara itself, with a population of over a million, flows into the best main river in Europe, the Volga, a river in which the "leaders" of the country who came for training enjoyed swimming. After the explosion, none of them thought to take a dip in it.
>
> Let us name the statesmen who played a decisive role in determining the location of the explosion: L.P. Beria, M.O.

Bulganin, L.M. Kaganovich, V.M. Molotov, G.M. Malenkov."

(The Soviet Army launched a nuclear strike on Russia 45 years ago // Literaturnaya Gazeta. - 1999. - September 15).

So, the nuclear explosion at the Totsk test site is a great achievement. Zhukov is the greatest military genius. He was the one who chose the most picturesque places in Russia, the most fertile soil. It his head that came up with the great idea to test it on people! And he had no assistants, no deputies, no bosses. He did everything himself! Glory to him! And the memorial plaque is now in place at the Totsk training ground: "Under the personal supervision of Zhukov".

Or the nuclear explosion at the Totsk test site is a heinous crime. But a gang of scoundrels is to blame: Beria, Bulganin, Malenkov, Kaganovich, Molotov. They committed the crime.

For some reason, Zhukov is not on the list of villains. Although Zhukov was officially the head of the exercise.

And this is despite the fact that Beria was arrested on June 26, 1953, more than a year before the explosion, and shot on December 23, 1953, at 19:50, almost nine months before the explosion.

2

We open Zhukov's memoirs and read how the Great Strategist himself assesses his amusements in September 1954.

He does not evaluate them in any way. He does not recall or reflect on them. There is not a word in his memoirs about these exercises.

Zhukov's defenders crammed the Internet with calculations of radiation levels and graphs of the rapid decline in these levels.

Let us ask these citizens a question: why are the materials of the exercises classified? Is someone in the Kremlin still hoping to take advantage of the experience gained 60 years later? Someone is still planning to "Tatiana" with Tu-4s and break through the "Western" front?

And why were the participants in the exercise required to sign a written commitment to keep the secret for twenty-five years? Why should it be kept? Let's think about what a participant could tell us about the exercise. That they took place? No one was hiding it. The exercise was attended by representatives of sixteen foreign countries. From concrete bunkers, they watched the events through dark periscope glasses. All of them were familiarized with the situation before the exercises: there here "Western", here "Eastern", we will break through the defense towards the epicenter, tanks - this many, guns - this many.

Three days later, the TARS informed the world in an official statement about the exercise. So what kind of secret are we talking about after that?

What else could the participant say? That the bomb has a terrible destructive power? Who doesn't know that? Let's say that one participant in the exercise spilled the beans and told someone that the explosion produces a fireball, that light radiation and heat pulse burn houses and trees, melt tank armor, that the shock wave destroys any building, flattens tank hulls and blows off turrets. Suppose someone heard this and told someone else, and eventually this information became known to enemy intelligence. The question is: is it really news to the enemy?

Perhaps Zhukov did not want to reveal to the Americans the great secret of what the damage factors of a nuclear explosion are? They were the first to discover these factors without Zhukov.

What are we hiding and why?

Let me explain with an example. The archives of the Totsk District Hospital from 1954 to 1980 were destroyed. There was no place to store them. They had to burn them.

The explosion in September 1954.

After that, from 1955 to 1980, exactly twenty-five years, it was a clean quarter.

3

What is the value of the experience gained?

All the participants in the exercises gave a written commitment to remain silent for 25 years. All of them made false entries in their personal documents stating that in September 1954 they were in the Far East, the Arctic or Central Asia.

The participants of the exercise were thrown out of the army by the thousands. Zhukov no longer needed them. Production waste. Slag.

But why do tens of thousands of soldiers need the experience of breaking through the epicenter if they will never serve in the army again? If they cannot and do not have the right to share their knowledge with anyone?

What is the benefit of such experience?

It's a stunning logic: they taught crowds of people how to act in the face of real nuclear weapons, and they all got sick, even died. So why were they taught?

If Zhukov, having infected tens of thousands of soldiers with radiation sickness, white blood and other nastiness, had then ordered them to be treated, this would have been the experience of doctors. But no one did that.

If people had been allowed to go through medical, radiation and chemical control after the explosion, this would have been the experience of military medics and specialists in radiation and chemical protection. But this did not happen either.

If the equipment and weapons had been decontaminated after the explosion, it would have been an experience for all sorts of other specialists. But there was no decontamination. So who gained what experience during these exercises?

If the health of local residents were monitored, it would be an experience for some medical luminaries. It would be interesting to know what will happen in 10-15 years. Will the girls who grow up give birth to normal babies or freaks? It would be interesting to know whether the boys of the next generation will be normal or impotent. But no one was concerned with these questions either. And medical statistics were mercilessly exterminated.

4

The main question: WHY?

Who needed to conduct nuclear weapons exercises at the Totsk test site in September 1954 and why?

What's the point?

It's strange that six decades have passed since Zhukov committed a particularly grave crime against his own people, against his homeland, but no one has ever bothered to ask us these questions.

The official version is that the exercise was conducted in order to verify in practice the possibility of breaking through the enemy's defense by using nuclear weapons and to gain experience in such a breakthrough.

We agree. But let's ask a direct question: who are you talking about? In the event of war, which enemy's defense did Zhukov intend to break through with nuclear strikes?

Let's follow the celestial body from east to west through the likely recipients of such strikes. Let's pick off unbelievable options like daisy petals. Let's weed out the unworthy. Let's identify the likely ones.

Japan is on the islands, there cannot be a solid front. If we are going to , we just need to remember the lessons of the 1945 landings on the Kuril Islands: what we need first should be loaded last.

But why land the troops? At the end of World War II, the Americans dropped a couple of surprises on Japanese cities from bombers designed under the leadership of a great Bulgarian. The result exceeded expectations.

The Americans did not touch the capital. They hit secondary targets. Four strikes were being prepared. But two were enough. Japan surrendered after a couple of explosions. So, if the Soviet Union was preparing a war against Japan, the experience of the Totsk exercises would have been useless. It could not be repeated. And why should it be? Choose a couple of cities, bomb them, and the Japanese will surrender.

Korea.

At the time of the exercise at the Totsk training grounds, only a year had passed since the Korean War ended. The Korean War was fought by the Soviet

The Union lost. Stalin's idea was to make South Korea communist. Three years of intensified fighting did not bring about the result. Where the war began June 1950, it ended in July 1953.

The Soviet Union intended to "liberate" South Korea. It failed. The loss is obvious.

The Americans wanted to prevent "liberation". And did not.

In other words, they achieved their goal.

After that, Soviet marshals and generals were no longer drawn to Korea.

China?

China was our good friend and ally at the time.

Thousands of Chinese specialists studied at Soviet universities and institutes. Chinese officers learned how to win in Soviet military academies and schools. Soviet military advisors passed on to the Chinese army the experience of the recent war.

Soviet engineers helped the Chinese master the latest achievements of science and technology up to the construction of a nuclear reactor in China for peaceful purposes, of course.

Soviet technology flowed to China.

According to Soviet documents and drawings, China began to produce ZIS-150 and GAZ-51 cars, Sudayev assault rifles and Kalashnikovs (I have a Chinese Kalash with hieroglyphics on the wall in my office), Simonov carbines, Goryunov machine guns, Degtyarev and Shpagin machine guns, Shavyrin mortars, Petrov and Grabin guns and howitzers, T-54 and PT-76 tanks, K-61 artillery tractors and tracked floating transporters, Mikoyan and Gurevich fighters, Il-28 and Tu-16 bombers, mines and torpedoes, transport aircraft, parachutes, submarines and communications equipment, Raspletin and Grushin anti-aircraft missiles. It went as far as handing over a set of technical documentation for the Korolev 8K11 tactical missiles.

The technology was transferred as fraternal aid. It was free of charge. The main and most ardent supporter of arming China with Soviet nuclear missile weapons was Marshal Zhukov of the Soviet Union.

On August 20, 1957, Zhukov ordered the transfer of technology for the production of the most advanced Soviet medium-range strategic missiles of the time, the 8K51, to China.

On October 15, 1957, an agreement was signed according to which the Soviet Union was to transfer nuclear munitions technology to China. Only Zhukov's timely removal made it possible to avoid fulfilling this self-defeating obligation.

Zhukov is a genius of strategy. There's no arguing with that. If he were a genius, he would have thought: why does China need our missiles with a range of 1,200 kilometers?

They won't get to America anyway.

Strike at Japan? Japan was completely disarmed at that time. In the of a general nuclear war, the Soviet Union could have attacked Japan. The Soviet Union had what it needed. And how much did Japan need? It seems to me that Japan was not at all burning with a passionate desire to have something like Hiroshima happen again.

Or perhaps the missiles were being transferred to China to help it resolve territorial disputes with India? But what is the Soviet Union's interest here? If the Chinese use our missiles to launch nuclear strikes against India, what good will it do us? If the Chinese like it, let them fight the Indians with bamboo sticks. Both the Chinese and the Indians have plenty of people. And they have sticks too.

So why did Zhukov transfer the technology for the production of tactical and strategic missiles to China? Apart from Vladivostok and Khabarovsk, Novosibirsk and Krasnoyarsk, Semipalatinsk and Blagoveshchensk, what other targets can be invented for those missiles?

By arming China with the most advanced weapons, Zhukov was clearly not preparing to break through the Chinese defense.

Whose defense did he decide to break?

For the liberation campaigns in Iran and Afghanistan, we can do without breaking through the defense with nuclear strikes.

Turkey could be frightened by a nuclear strike, but it could be freed from the shackles of capitalism without such a strike. However, if a breakthrough of the Turkish defense were to be attempted, the exercises should be conducted in mountainous terrain.

Zhukov conducted the training in the Southern Urals, where the terrain was very similar to Central Europe: forests, fields, hills, streams, rivers, rivers, groves, and plenty of settlements.

You can't transfer a rifle corps to America. The U.S. Navy was far superior to the Soviet Navy. And even if the corps were transferred, how would it be supplied with tens of thousand tons of ammunition, fuel and

lubricants, food, spare parts, and everything else? And what is one corps going to do in America? And the Totsk exercises were not about one corps. The front was attacked by several armies, and each army had several corps. It was only one corps that actually advanced on the training ground, and that was in a secondary direction. However, it was meant to be a grand offensive operation of the entire front, consisting of several armies, a dozen or even two dozen corps. The front could not be moved to the territory of America even theoretically.

In other words, the Soviet Army had nowhere on the planet Earth to conduct a frontline offensive with a breakthrough of the defense by nuclear strikes. The only exception was the territory of West Germany. If France had lingered after the liberation campaign in West Germany, which is doubtful, it would have been necessary to break through the French defense with nuclear strikes.

That's all. Nowhere else but in West Germany could there be such a strong field defense that could be shattered by nuclear strikes and super-powered rifle corps.

But then the question arises: why do we need to break through the defenses in West Germany?

5

Let's imagine that the damned West German revenge-mongers attacked peace-loving East Germany, defeated its army and a half-million-strong grouping of Soviet troops on German soil, marched through Poland, crushing both the Polish Army and Soviet troops in Poland, invaded the Soviet Union, defeated and pushed back the troops of the Western military districts, but, having exhausted their offensive impulse, began to defend themselves. And so, in order to expel the occupiers from their native land, the Soviet Army launched nuclear strikes, broke through the enemy's front with these strikes, and through the resulting gaps, that is, through the epicenters of nuclear explosions, led the rifle corps into a breakthrough.

Yes?

No, it's not. This option will not work.

The leadership of the Soviet Union had no reason to allow West German revenge fighters to enter our land or the territory of our allies.

West German generals did not have nuclear weapons, but Soviet generals did. As soon as the insidious enemies attacked East Germany, as as they crossed the border of Czechoslovakia or East Germany, nuclear strikes should have been launched against West German cities.

That would have calmed the enemies down. The war would have ended there.

And the breakthrough of the enemy's defense would have become simply unnecessary.

For the tenth time, two destroyed cities were enough for Japan to agree to any terms of surrender. Wouldn't the West German revanchists have asked for peace after Hamburg and Cologne and Düsseldorf and Munich had been turned into radioactive wastelands?

Why should the Soviet Army break through the defense if the enemy is asking for peace?

And would they attack, knowing that their cities were in the Soviet crosshairs? Europe is not America. After all, the Soviet Army had plenty to hit in Europe.

And if two, three, five lost cities with millions of inhabitants are not enough for the damned aggressors, then ten cities should be destroyed! Or twenty!

So, in the situation when the West German revengeful attacked us, it made no sense to break through their defense with nuclear strikes.

6

Option two.

The ground forces of the damned Americans were on the territory of Western Europe. As many as four divisions! And three brigades! And all of them were in West Germany. Let's assume that they attacked with the intention of reaching Moscow and Stalingrad.

In this case, the Soviet Army should have acted according to the first option: to destroy the cities of West Germany. And to send a message to the West Germans in advance: if anyone dares to use your territory to attack us and our allies, you will be the first to suffer. And until you kick us out of your territory or kill the last American soldier on your soil, we will destroy your cities. With millions of inhabitants.

And in this case, the war could not last long.

In this case, Soviet generals would not have had to break through American defenses in East Germany, Poland, and Czechoslovakia, let alone the Soviet Union.

The Americans should have been politely informed that the nuclear charges in disassembled (or assembled) form could be in the Amazon jungle, in the Cordillera or the Andes. The Cordillera is the longest mountain system on Earth. There is a place to hide. I should have informed you that our good guys already live in the beautiful cities of Argentina or Paraguay. Attack the Soviet Union, gentlemen. For the same salary, our guys will carry the elements of the charges to the territory of the United States, assemble them, and terrify them.

There are many possibilities: a Liberian-flagged bulk carrier will call at the port of a large seaside city, and there will be a charge in the hold. And then it will go off. How much does Manhattan need? That's why you'd better not attack us.

That's all.

Why break through the American defense?

In short, in the event of aggression from West Germany, there was no point in the defense of American, West German or any other troops for the Soviet divisions and corps to break through . There was a easier and

A more radical way not only to stop aggression almost instantly, but also to prevent it.

7

Anyone preparing for a defensive war should not break through the enemy's defense with nuclear explosions. Not at any stage of the war. If Zhukov and Khrushchev were concerned about the threat of an enemy invasion, they should have announced: "We are very weak, very timid, so we will strike once. But with an axe. Between the eyes".

And then there will be no Paris, no London, no Bonn, no Frankfurt on the Main.

In the second half of the twentieth century, it became possible to defeat an enemy without breaking its defenses. Let him defend himself! And we will destroy its capital with nuclear strikes, destroy its industry and transportation.

However, Zhukov did not have to destroy enemy cities, railroad junctions, ports, and factories.

We had to capture them.

Our task is not to defend the Soviet Union, East Germany, Poland, and Czechoslovakia from the damned enemy by forcing the aggressor to peace.

Our task is to take over Central and Western Europe.

Only in this case will it be possible to break through the defenses of American, West German, French, British and other troops in Central Europe.

It is necessary to break the enemy's front with nuclear explosions only in a situation where we attacked West Germany. And not to neutralize or destroy it, but to occupy it.

The experience of the training at the Totsk training ground was not acceptable and suitable for any other war scenario, except for a liberation campaign in Western Europe.

Zhukov was referring to the capture of West Germany. Then France. No one hid this then, and no one is hiding it now. This is exactly what the top brass wrote with admiration in their scientific treatises: the terrain for the exercises was chosen to be similar to that in Western Europe.

KEY POINT

Official historians urge me to write history based only on documents.

This appeal reflects a holy faith that the authors of the documents have never lied. However, here is an example. Under Stalin, during the period of mass executions, a formula was introduced: "Ten years without the right to correspond." People were killed, and their relatives were told that they were in prison. If they remembered about him ten years later, they received a response to their inquiries:
"He died in prison of a runny nose." And the date of death was sculpted from the ceiling.

There are a lot of such documents. And they are official. They were issued by the most respected government organizations that existed for the sole purpose of strengthening socialist legitimacy.

The training at the Totsk training ground is not the last example of deliberate and massive falsification of documents. The authorities have shielded themselves from the consequences of their crime with a double wall, obligations to keep silent, and fake documents.

The victims of Zhukov's pranks were ordered to keep silent under penalty of prosecution. And when they were allowed to speak, these poor people were demanded to provide documentary evidence of their participation in those events.

However, the documents do not record their participation. Documents show that all the participants were in Siberia, Altai, and the Far East at the time.

It's hard to disagree with my critics: "You should write only on the basis of documents." However, all the materials of the training at the Totsk training ground have been classified for six decades, contrary to Russian law.

"Some documents will remain inaccessible for centuries if they relate to state or personal secrets," said Professor Rzeshevsky, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Head of the Department of War History and Geopolitics at the Institute of General History of the Russian Academy of Sciences, at the FSB Cultural Center on April 22, 2008.

But does it make sense to keep the documents of the Tots Exercises as a great state secret?

Of course there is! The state committed a crime against its own army and its own people. It is in the state's interest to force historians to write only the truth and only on the basis of documents to which no one will be allowed to access in the next 200, 300, or even 700 years.

Does it make sense to keep the documents of the Tocci exercises as someone's personal secret?

Of course! Zhukov is an outstanding strategist, and we don't need to know about his personal involvement in crimes against his own people. Therefore, from this point of view, it is better not to let anyone near the documents for centuries.

Section 18

1

But why did Zhukov need to liberate Western Europe? For self-defense.

In order to preserve the Soviet Union, which could not exist for long alongside normal countries.

The planned economy of our country, that is, the economy managed by bureaucrats, could not compete with the free economic activity of hundreds of millions of free citizens.

This is how cabbies could not exist on the streets of Soviet cities for long after the Gorky Automobile Plant began mass-producing Pobeda cars with checkered sides in 1946. Cabbies had to either deface and break all the taxis, which they did with great enthusiasm at night, or give way to taxi drivers.

The bureaucrat-run Soviet economy was in the position of a carriage chasing the Victory.

"Catch up and overtake!" called Comrade Lenin.

"Catch up and overtake!" Comrade Stalin demanded.

"Catch up and overtake!" Khrushchev was hysterical.

But a socialist economy is under no circumstances capable of surpassing the economy of the free world.

Simply because bureaucrats don't innovations.

Simply because the bureaucrat is handling other people's money, not his own.

Simply because no one will ask him for embezzling people's money.

That's why a bureaucrat is capable of any crazy tricks, for example, blocking the Volga with ridiculous dams in the area of Gorky and Kuibyshev, Saratov and Stalingrad, flooding fertile floodplains, blocking the way for sturgeons that have lived here for millions of years.

A bureaucrat is capable of damming the Dnipro, turning a great river into a standing swamp filled with sewage, including radioactive waste.

A bureaucrat can create a Ministry of Land Reclamation that will drain surface swamps, which will dry up the streams and rivers that feed the Don and Kuban, the Volga and Dnipro.

A bureaucrat can draw water from the rivers of Central Asia in such volumes that the balance between the flow of water into the Aral Sea and its evaporation will be disrupted. And the Aral Sea will dry up, its bottom will turn into a salty desert. The winds will carry the salt hundreds and thousands of kilometers away, killing all life in the immediate and distant vicinity.

A bureaucrat is able to organize the Winter Olympics in a subtropical climate at a huge cost.

And everything is like water off a goose's back. No one controls him, except another bureaucrat. That is why a socialist state will never be able to catch up, let alone overtake, a country with a normal economy.

An economic system in which people invest their own money, not someone else's, will always be superior to the economy of socialism. Socialism, which exists alongside normal countries, must either impose the same criminal and senseless path of development on all its neighbors or perish, unable to withstand economic competition.

This is how Neanderthals could not coexist for a long time in the foreseeable future (there was no history then) alongside another, more developed and successful species of humanoid.

Our own government was delighted to secretly and openly harm the capitalists, and in the long run to exterminate them all. Otherwise...

2

The fierce fighting at the top of the Kremlin continued not only over the power itself, but also over how to dispose of it.

If Lev Davidovich Trotsky had been at the helm, he would have led us down one path. And Nikolai Ivanovich Bukharin would have led us to the same abyss, but on a different path. Zinoviev had his own views on the choice of the method of national suicide, and Rykov had his own.

And Comrade Stalin had views on which path to take for the country and all progressive humanity.

However, in 1953 Stalin passed away. Those who replaced him faced the eternal question: what to do?

In 1917, the country chose its own special path. Not like everyone else's. We were proud of it - we were pioneers! We are going down an uncharted path! We were paving the way for humanity.

But for some reason, no one voluntarily wanted to follow our path. Millions of proletarians all over the world were in no hurry to follow our example, did not break the chains of slavery, did not overthrow their bourgeois, and did not run to us in droves for a happy life.

We dragged many people along under Lenin, Stalin, and after them, breaking ourselves to the bone: Estonians and Latvians, Lithuanians and Poles, Czechs, Bulgarians and Hungarians, East Germans and Romanians, people from Somalia and Ethiopia. They were dragged by force, threats, generous handouts, and lured. Let's build a dam across the Nile at a loss, and Egypt will follow our lead! Let's give the dictators of Indonesia an entire navy, and they will join us. We will crush Budapest and Prague with tanks, shoot the rebels, and the rest will happily follow our path.

In fairness, it should be noted that the Russians, Ukrainians, and Belarusians did not have an unbridled desire to tread the unknown path either. They also resisted. And how they resisted! The peoples of our country were dragged onto the uncharted path only as a result of the bloody Civil War, in which Russia lost more people and material assets than all countries together, including Russia itself, lost in World War I.

On the unknown path in the darkness, there were dangers, a slight slope to the right - we would fall, we would be lost! A slight slope to the left - you can't stand it anyway!

It is not for nothing that Comrade Stalin fought so hard against various biases. In particular, the right-left bias.

For seven decades of its existence, the Soviet Union was in a state of unstable equilibrium.

For example: after World War II, the Soviet Union consisted of sixteen union republics. The Karelian-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic bordered on Finland. The border was enormous. The entire area is dense taiga, lakes, rocky rapids, and swamps. It is extremely difficult to control this border. Taking advantage of such a generous gift of nature, the entire Finnish population gradually moved to Finland. On July 16, 1956, it was decided to downgrade the status of the Karelian-Finnish Union Republic to an autonomous republic, and to remove the word "Finnish" from its name. The reduction in the number of union republics led to a change in the USSR's State Emblem.

If other borders were as easy to escape from, the Soviet Union would have lost many more of its republics. It would have had to change the Soviet coat of arms more often.

3

The same process took place in the countries that became our forced allies after World War II.

After the war, Korea was divided into North and South Korea. North Korea set about building a brighter future. South Korea maintained a normal economic system. It was clear that people were fleeing from the north to the south, leaving everything behind. Something had to be done about it. There were only two solutions.

The first is to give up building a bright future in North Korea. Then people would not flee anywhere.

The second is to put South Korea on the right track. Make sure that it does not become a tempting example for the population of the northern regions.

Of course, Comrade Stalin chose the second option. North Korea started a war against South Korea in order to ensure a happy life for South Korea as well.

And Germany is divided into two parts. In East Germany, the goal was to build a happy life based on our models. Therefore, from September 1950 to October 1955, 1 million 219 thousand people fled from East Germany to West Germany. Starting in the spring 1955, the number of fugitives began to increase rapidly every month.

The Karelian-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic, North Korea, and East Germany faced problems because there was an opportunity to escape to a foreign land: Finns moved to Finland, Germans
- to Germany, and Koreans to Korea.

Everyone else was held back by the sad fact that they had to go not only into the unknown, leaving everything behind, but also to a foreign country. However, the fact that people did not run away does not mean that they were passionate about building a brighter future.

Therefore, the leaders who came to power in the Kremlin after Stalin had to decide what to do. The decision had to be made immediately.

And there were only two solutions.

Or give up building a bright future.

Or we can forcefully drag all of humanity along with us so that the example of other countries and peoples does not tempt our people, does not force them to compare their happy lives with the lives of oppressed proletarians in neighboring countries.

At the very top of the Kremlin leadership, the positions were divided into diametrically opposed ones.

Beria and Malenkov: "We are gradually shoveling away the idea of building a bright future, returning to the circle of normal states, and stopping experiments on our own people."

Bulganin and Khrushchev: "We are continuing the path to communism".

Everyone can see where we would have come if we had followed the path of Beria and Malenkov by looking at China. A backward, poor country, without abandoning the red flag, gradually embarked on the path of economic freedom. And it has become an economic, political and military superpower. This is exactly the path that Beria and Malenkov tried to lead the Soviet Union on after Stalin.

And everyone can see where we have come through the path of Bulganin and Khrushchev by looking around them. We came to the collapse of the Soviet Union, the extinction of the people.

4

Throughout its history, the situation of the Soviet Union has often been compared to that of a daredevil walking without a safety net on a tightrope over Niagara Falls.

I strongly disagree with this comparison.

The fact is that a rope or cable has two ends that are fixed to two strong bases. You can go forward, you can go back. You'll get somewhere anyway.

But!

It is impossible to come to communism. It is possible to reach a situation where everyone on our planet has everything they need. Recently, I saw from the shore how one of our countrymen's yachts was being refueled. A liter of diesel fuel costs one British pound. With a tail. With a long tail. A ton is one thousand pounds. Again, with a tail. A hundred tons is more than a hundred thousand. I don't know how much we need to pump into that yacht. But it has a displacement of 13 thousand tons. It's like two Aurora cruisers combined. One refueling of the yacht costs about a million British pounds.

That yacht needs to be insured, repaired and painted, and the crew of the yacht, the helicopters, and the small submarine need to be maintained.

And that fellow countryman has more than one yacht.

It's good that we have such a rich country. Our people simply have nowhere to put their money. Our people thank their best representatives by providing them with a beautiful life. We do everything to ensure that the best people live well. However, the needs of this citizen are not met. It is not enough for him.

Excuse me, but what will happen if every inhabitant of planet Earth starts to satisfy their needs? Is it possible to meet the material needs of billions of people? After all, we as a country are not able to meet the needs of even one of our citizens.

Therefore, I repeat: it is impossible to build a society in which everyone's material needs will be met. Communism is impossible. It is impossible on principle.

That is why the path to communism is not four quarters of the way along a line stretched like a nerve.

The road to communism is a steel rod of incredible length. We have been walking for seventy years, and we have not seen the end of the road.

Because it is not there. Then there was emptiness. And the further we walked, the more the core bent and vibrated. After seventy years of great victories and accomplishments, after unheard-of efforts and sacrifices, the Soviet Union introduced ration cards.

The Soviet Union was marching towards communism by leaps and bounds. That is, to nowhere. And Beria was right. Beria tried to quietly, without excessive noise, turn the country's victorious march onto the path of development of all normal countries.

Why look for a special path if there are well-trodden roads? Without the death and suffering of millions. Without hunger and mass executions. Without bloody experiments on your own people, you can build a quite decent life. Like in Switzerland, for example.

Why not follow their lead? What's wrong with it? They have no oil. No gas. No coal, nickel and manganese. There is only economic freedom of citizens.

5

Khrushchev destroyed Beria. Khrushchev published a Stalinist textbook about the inevitability of the World Revolution as a result of World War III in millions of copies. However, even this failed to crush Malenkov and all those who followed him. They continued, as usual, to repeat that the Third World War would lead to the destruction of humanity, so it was necessary to turn off the path of the World Revolution.

And then Zhukov intervened in the dispute.

After Stalin's death, the situation looked very simple.

If the country turns away from the path of the World Proletarian Revolution, the armed forces and weapons production will be curtailed.

And they will be deployed if the country does not turn off the chosen path.

Zhukov decided not to give up. So he immediately began to push a simple idea: it was possible to win World War III!

Beria, the enemy of the people, proposed to make Germany neutral.

We will go the other way. We will make all of Germany communist. We will break through the defense of West Germany with nuclear strikes, invade its territory, and liberate it. And then France, Spain, and Belgium.

We will send a signal to the Americans: we do not touch you, do not hit our cities, or we will hit yours, we have what it takes.

After receiving the post of First Deputy Defense Minister, Zhukov began practical preparations for the Totsk training ground and the troops that would participate in the exercise.

Zhukov conducted the exercises at the Totsk training ground in order to prove that, despite the emergence of nuclear weapons, the victory of socialism in Western Europe is possible!

In the coming war, we will liberate West Germany just as we liberated Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary, East Germany, and other countries during the last war! We will invade with tanks and establish a happy life, just like ours. We will break the way for tanks through the enemy defense front with nuclear explosions! The main thing

- West Germany, followed by France, Spain, and all other European countries will follow our lead.

On September 14, 1954, Zhukov showed everyone who doubted him that this is how we break down the defense in West Germany, how we bring troops through the epicenter and move forward. Even to the ocean.

Malenkov and his supporters were disgraced. September 14,

1954 was the beginning of Malenkov's end.

September 14, 1954 marked the beginning of a new stage in the Soviet Union's struggle to liberate the oppressed proletarians of Europe and the world from the shackles of capitalism.

September 14, 1954 was the beginning of the end of the Soviet Union.

KEY POINT

Western experts knew everything about the Soviet Union.

They understood nothing.

Example. For decades, the United States spent fantastic amounts of money trying to determine the military budget of the Soviet Union. Scientific institutes worked for this purpose, conferences and symposia of all kinds were convened, and scholarly comrades wrote articles and books, defended their dissertations, and put forward and defended theories.

> "To determine the real value of the USSR's military expenditures, US research centers spent, according to various CIA estimates, from 4 to 10 billion dollars. It was the largest project in the social sciences in human history."
>
> *(Chervona Zvezda. - 2008. - August 20-26)*

It should be borne in mind that in the 70s and 80s, a billion dollars meant much more than it does today.

Not only Americans were concerned about the Soviet Union's military spending. Other countries were also trying to solve this puzzle. Scientific searches here, of course, did not have American

The problem was not solved on a large scale. Nevertheless, generous millions were regularly invested in solving this problem.

In October 1982, another gathering of thinkers was held in Oxford. I had just published a book about the Soviet Army. The book had a certain success, so I was invited to participate in the meetings. I sit, listen, and yawn. No matter what methods the gentlemen scientists proposed, no one could calculate Soviet military spending. And then I was offered to express opinions. I stand up:

"Citizens, sirs, here is the newspaper Pravda. Read it, everything is written here. No one is hiding anything: the peace-loving Soviet Union spends 17 billion rubles a year on military needs."

I said: "No way!" I said, "What difference does

it make?"

They could not understand this. They never understood this.

It seemed to them that if the Soviet Union had a large military budget, it meant that it had a powerful armed force, and if it had a modest budget, it meant that it had a weak armed force. That is why they tried to calculate the real budget.

I explain to them that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is a socialist state. This follows even from its name.

They don't understand me: "What's the difference?"

I explain with an example.

Let's assume that the rulers of the Soviet Union decided to move one motorized rifle division from Brest to the Chinese border. The motorized rifle division of that time consisted of 10815 soldiers and officers, 257 tanks, 117 infantry fighting vehicles, 194 armored personnel carriers, 127 armored personnel carriers, 2413 vehicles, tactical and anti-aircraft missiles, cannon and rocket artillery, mortars, etc. If 40 vehicles are loaded into each echelon, then about 60 echelons are needed to transport the vehicles alone. And the journey is both far and long. A quarter of the equator.

I asked: "What, gentlemen, do you think is the economic interest of the outstanding commander, Marshal of the Soviet Union, four-time Hero of the Soviet Union (four times more than Stalin!), Hero of Socialist Labor Leonid Brezhnev, who is in charge of this very Soviet Union? What do you think: does he want to extort more money from the Soviet Army for transportation, or a little less?"

This question has experts.

The railroads of the Soviet Union belonged to the people, and they were managed by the Minister of Railways, Hero of Socialist Labor, Comrade Pavlovsky. And all ministers were headed by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, twice Hero of Socialist Labor, holder of nine Orders of Lenin, Comrade Tikhonov. And the government was led by the Communist Party, headed by a loyal Leninist, Comrade Brezhnev.

Let's assume that advisors and referents suggested that Comrade Brezhnev exercise some restraint and demand one ruble from the Soviet Army for the transportation of a division.

If so, then the head of the government, Comrade Tikhonov, on the orders of Comrade Brezhnev, should have taken that ruble from the state budget and given it to the Ministry of Defense, to the Marshal of the Soviet Union, Hero of the Soviet Union, twice Hero of Socialist Labor, holder of eleven Orders of Lenin, Comrade Ustinov. Because the Ministry of Defense has no money of its own, only the money given by the government.

The Minister of Defense will receive a ruble from the government, pay it to the Minister of Railways, Comrade Pavlovsky, and Comrade Pavlovsky will return the ruble to the government in the form of his profits.

Now let's assume that Comrade Brezhnev decided to make a lot of money on this case. And let's say that the referents told Comrade Brezhnev to extort a hundred million rubles from the Soviet Army for the transportation of a division!

In this case, the government of the Soviet Union should take a hundred million out of its own pocket and give it to the Ministry of Defense. Let's not forget: the Ministry of Defense has no money of its own. It has only the money given by the government.

The Minister of Defense will receive a hundred million from the government, pay it to the Ministry of Railways. The Minister of Railways will happily report on the profits earned and transfer a hundred million to the government at once!

I repeat the question: what is the difference between one ruble and a hundred million?

So there was difference.

And there was no point in giving a ruble to the Ministry of Defense so that this ruble would return to the same pocket. So no one transferred any money anywhere.

Here, experts jump up from their seats: "How much does such transportation cost?"

I repeat: "It doesn't cost anything. The work is done, but it is impossible to determine the cost in money. And there are no rubles in the operation. There is an order from the government to the Ministry of Railways to deliver so many cars to this place and transfer so many people and goods to that place."

And so it is in everything. The army needs nuclear

weapons. To do this, uranium needs to be enriched.

To do this, you need to spin the centrifuges.

This requires a lot of electricity. For the sake of these charges, for the sake of this uranium, we are damming a large Siberian river. We are putting millions of cubic meters of concrete into the dam body. The question is: what is the government's economic interest - to sell cement to builders at a high price or at a low price?

If the government sells a ton of cement for one ruble, then you will have to take the appropriate amount out of your pocket and give it to the construction manager. The construction manager will pay the state-owned cement plants, and they will return the money to the state.

If a ton of cement is sold for one hundred rubles, then the government will have to take out of its pocket a hundred times that amount, give it to the construction manager, who will pay the state-owned cement plants, and they will return the money to the same government pocket.

Therefore, there is no point in arguing about the military budget of a socialist state. Most operations did not and could not have a monetary value.

Wise experts refused to understand this phrase.

At the time, I explained using a more understandable example: Here is an American battalion. It spends fuel, spare parts for vehicles, ammunition. Soldiers need to be armed, clothed, fed, treated, and paid for their service. Weapons, ammunition, food, and fuel come from private companies, and the market determines the price: one company is ready to sell army pants at this price, another company sells them for half that price.

But here's the situation: the same battalion spent a week in the rain and sleet, in the piercing wind, in the mud and cold, preparing the defense in the mountains of South Korea, digging trenches and trenches, building dugouts, driving in stakes, entangling them with barbed wire. All of them.

Hundreds of people worked for a week, doing a huge amount of very necessary work. How much does it cost?

It costs nothing. It's impossible to put a monetary value on this necessary work, because no one buys the results of the work.

In the Soviet Union, everything was organized in this way. The work was done by state structures for state structures. The seller and the buyer were the same state. In one person.

But even this example failed convince the experts.

Then the simplest one. Imagine, I say, citizens-sirs, that your wife does not work. She's the mistress of the house. The only money in the family is what you bring home. You decide to teach your wife to drive a car. What is your economic interest: to charge her one dollar or one hundred dollars for each hour of driving?

But even this example not be drilled into their heads.

Not only American experts did not understand the essence of socialism. There were some comrades in our country. A certain Yuri Vladimirovich Andropov, an army general, Hero of Socialist Labor, holder of four Orders of Lenin, was the head of the KGB, and then became the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. And for some reason, our economy was not doing well at that time (as it always was). And Comrade Andropov decided to look into the problems of the economy. He asked a question to very wise scientists: "So how much does a ton of steel really cost in the Soviet Union?"

It's a killer question, a closing question.

An intelligent person would not have asked such a question. But Comrade Andropov was not known for his outstanding mental abilities. So he decided to find out.

A conference of academics and doctors of economic sciences gathered.
We argued and fought, but did not find a solution.

Because there is no solution.

A Soviet citizen does not need a ton of steel. He would not buy it. Tens, hundreds, thousands, and millions of tons of steel were received by state-owned enterprises from state-owned enterprises on the orders of the State Planning Committee. This is the same situation as with the transfer of a motorized infantry division from point A to point B.

It is possible to calculate how many cars and locomotives are needed, for how many days, and how much electricity and diesel fuel will be required. However, the cost of redeploying a division cannot be determined.

The cost of what is not sold, of what is transferred from one government pocket to another, be determined. We can only calculate the material and human labor costs: to weld a ton of steel, you need to have so much ore, use so many tons of coke, so many tons of water, use so much electricity, add so many other metals to the molten mass, and use the labor of so many people of such and such qualifications for so many hours.

The economy of socialism was officially called a cost-based economy.
That's what they wrote in political economy textbooks.

The leaders, starting with Lenin, urged bureaucrats of all levels and ranks to be frugal. Comrade Stalin declared those who did not save money to be pests and shot them. Comrade Khrushchev drove them from high positions. Comrade Brezhnev, at the XXVI Congress of the CPSU, read the syllables that the referents had composed: "Economics must be eco-onomics!"

The audience, holding back yawns, clapped their hands as usual.

But a costly economy cannot be economical by its very nature. It cannot be economical even if it is officially considered costly.

A cost-based economy is not an economy at all.

That is why socialism always loses in the economic competition with a normal human society, it loses inevitably and naturally.

That is why the Soviet Union was doomed to economic underdevelopment and defeat from the very beginning.

That is why it was unable to coexist alongside normal states.

That is why the Soviet Union, like a knight at a crossroads, had three paths open to it:

to abandon socialism and return to the normal path of development;

lose the economic competition and become a raw material colony of developed countries;

to undermine the economy of competitors in any way possible, up to the defeat of their armies, seize their territories and establish the same order as ours.

Our leaders did not want to give up socialism. In this case, they would lose power. They could only hope for the defeat of the enemy.

The victory over normal human society, as we have just found out, could not be economic, it could only be military.

This is why the Soviet Union built more nuclear submarines than all other countries in the world combined.

This is why the Soviet Union built more tanks than all other countries combined.

That is why the Soviet Union had more airborne divisions than all other countries in the world combined.

That is why the Soviet Union strangled itself with the excessive weight of its own weapons.

Section 19

1

On January 25, 1955, a plenum of the CPSU Central Committee opened in the Kremlin. The agenda: "On increasing the production of livestock products."

A future historian who does not have our all-conquering Soviet hardening will yawn sadly and turn the page without stopping.

But we, the ragged, battered skins, were born and raised in that system. Even in our early youth, we absorbed those customs with our very first mug of Zhigulevsky beer! We know what was behind such agendas.

As a result, the country is facing a terrible shortage of bread, meat, milk, butter, and all other products. It is urgent to increase production. But how?

Khrushchev solved the problem of bread by plowing virgin steppes. There was so much bread that it was simply impossible to take it all out of those steppes. And there was nowhere to store the bread that was taken out. While waiting for the elevators to be built, we had to dump the grain at the railroad crossings right on the ground. That is, in the dirt. That is, in the rain and snow.

Nothing! We will soon build roads and elevators, and there will be plenty of grain.

But what about livestock farming?

Nikita Khrushchev decided not to deviate from the Stalinist path. The country could be provided with livestock products. It is only necessary to broaden the socialist competition! Between brigades! Between collective farms! Between districts, regions, and republics! We should award agricultural leaders with honorary diplomas! Photos of the best brigadiers and heads of collective farms should be posted on "Board of Honor"! Award transitional red flags to the districts and regions that have achieved the highest results!

And one more thing: creative intellectuals should be given the task of glorifying the work of livestock farmers in poetry and prose! In movies! In soulful songs! In ballet and opera!

This is the general course of our Great Party!

This is the opening of the plenary session of the CPSU Central Committee. Introductory part. Language warm-up.

The main speeches are not about honorary certificates and red flags.

The main speeches are about how the entire Soviet people, inspired by the decisions of their party, are confidently marching into a brighter tomorrow. And here, you know, there are some who suggest that we should off the Leninist-Stalinist path! To give the land to the people! Abolish taxes on fruit trees, cows, and pigs! To allow collective farmers to have not one cow, but two! This is not our way, comrades, not our way! Those who propose this should be driven from the top!

2

The agenda of the January 1955 plenum was about animal husbandry. In fact, this was the plenary session at which Malenkov was deposed from the heights of power.

The preliminary decision had already been made. During the break, Marshal of the Soviet Union Bulganin, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense of the USSR, called the other marshals to his office one by one and informed them that at the end of the plenum, Malenkov would be removed from the post of Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and Bulganin would take his place, freeing up the position of Minister of Defense of the USSR. Marshal of the Soviet Union Zhukov was to be appointed Minister of Defense.

The marshals entered Bulganin's office one by one. Opinions differed. Isn't he better than Vasilevsky? Some agreed without objection, realizing that the issue had already been resolved.

Admiral Nikolai Gerasimovich Kuznetsov, First Deputy Minister of Defense and Commander-in-Chief of the Navy, entered Bulganin's office.

Kuznetsov noted that if the decision has been made, it is too late to express any opinions. However, if Zhukov is appointed Minister of Defense, he should be instructed that in matters of the fleet, he should take into account the opinion of sailors as people more knowledgeable in maritime matters.

Bulganin thanked Kuznetsov and let him go.

Bulganin passed it on to Zhukov: "Kuznetsov is against you." Zhukov did not forgive this.

3

January 31, 1955. The last day of the plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. Khrushchev makes a speech:

> "Let me say a few words about Comrade Malenkov's position on our policy in Germany. You now know what Beria's line was: he proposed to abandon the course of building socialism in the GDR. It must be said frankly that at that time Comrade Malenkov was completely with Beria on this issue...
>
> Now, about Comrade Malenkov's speech at a meeting with voters on March 12, 1954, where he made a theoretically false and politically harmful statement about the possibility of
> "the death of world civilization" if the imperialists unleash World War III. Comrade Malenkov confused some comrades with his incorrect statement about the death of civilization...
>
> The multiplication and further development of all that our party has accumulated largely depends on who is at the helm and how they implement the line set by the party, how they implement the wills of the great founder of our party and the Soviet state, Lenin, and the faithful successor of his work, Stalin."

Khrushchev accused Malenkov of deviating from the line of Lenin and Stalin. It turned out that Malenkov was not a firm enough Leninist-Stalinist. And you can't keep someone like that in high places.

It was a rout. The revelations were followed by practical conclusions. On February 7, 1955, Malenkov was removed from the post of Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR. He remained a member of the Presidium of the Central Committee and was appointed Deputy Prime Minister. But the slide had begun.

Khrushchev's loyal ally, Marshal of the Soviet Union Nikolai Bulganin, became Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

After assuming this position, Bulganin vacated the post of Minister of Defense of the USSR. On February 9, 1955, Marshal of the Soviet Union Georgy Konstantinovich Zhukov was appointed Minister of Defense of the USSR.

Because thanks to Zhukov, he managed to convince the incredulous that victory in World War III was possible!

After all, it was thanks to Zhukov that Malenkov, who had expressed doubts about the correctness of the Lenin-Stalin path, was removed from power!

After all, thanks to Zhukov, we managed to keep our country on the right path of building the fairest society and fighting the oppressors of the working class around the world!

4

The exercises organized and led by Zhukov at the Totsk training grounds were a tremendous success and had a great result.

All those who began to lose faith in the victory of the proletariat as a result of the coming Third World War were ideologically defeated and shamed.

All those who believed in the possibility of liberating Western Europe from the shackles of capitalism by breaking the front with nuclear strikes and breaking through the enemy's land with tank masses received a powerful confirmation of their rightness.

The ideological defeat made it possible to finish off the distrustful at the organizational and administrative level. Malenkov was removed from managing the country's economy. All those who supported him were immediately dismissed. The main thing was to remove the most ardent and brightest, and everyone else would be quiet and run to the victorious camp.

The training at the Totsk training grounds allowed Khrushchev to significantly strengthen his position and now boldly implement his big plans. Stalin's textbook clearly states that the October Revolution was the beginning of the World Proletarian Revolution and the basis for its development. That's right - the base!

It is time to move from words to deeds! It's time to produce Kalashnikovs by the millions and tens of millions, and ammunition by the billions. And distribute them to Asian, African and all other fighters against capitalism.

The production of such a large number of assault rifles and ammunition required a significant increase in the production of special steel, copper, and lead.

And the production of steel, copper, and lead led to a significant increase in the production of coal, coke, iron ore, and electricity. This, in turn, required an increase in the production of cars, excavators, and bulldozers. And in order to produce a lot of cars, excavators, and bulldozers, it is also necessary to increase the production of steel, copper, and lead.

But what a price!

And not just assault rifles! We will build tanks by the tens of thousands. The fighters for freedom will receive them in any quantity! And machine guns! And cannons! And mortars! Fighters and bombers! Let's arm China! North Korea! Indonesia! The Arabs! Negroes! Give us the basis for the development of the World Revolution!

After Stalin, the country could have gone one way or the other. The votes of the leaders were equally divided. Neither side could overcome the other, even using underhanded methods such as the sudden arrest of Marshal Beria.

Zhukov upset the balance. He decisively threw a three-pound weight on the scales, which provided a decisive advantage to all those who demanded that they not deviate from the path of Lenin-Stalin, the path that led to the victory of the proletariat on an international scale.

Zhukov paid with the health and lives of tens of thousands of soldiers, officers, and civilians, but he managed to prove that it was possible to win World War III. The main thing is to have a lot of the most modern weapons.

Even half a century later, we have not appreciated Zhukov's outstanding personal contribution to the resolution of the dispute between the leaders. His main merit is that he did not allow the country to turn away from the path of the World Revolution. Thanks to him, we have been on this path for almost four decades.

Until his legs gave out under the incredible weight of the accumulated weapons.

5

The training is conducted to test all preliminary calculations and estimates in an environment as close to the real one as possible.

The exercises at the Totsk training ground made it possible to identify a certain weakness in the entire scenario of a future defense breakthrough. We launch a nuclear strike on the enemy's positions, but our troops are too far from the epicenter. By the time they reach the epicenter after the explosion, the enemy can close the gap, and then we will not be able to break into capitalist lands and free our suffering class brothers from exploitation. After all, the hungry children of the proletarians are reaching out with their thin hands for a piece of bread. They are waiting for the liberators! If the bourgeois quickly close the gaps in their front after our nuclear strikes, the liberation will be thwarted.

What if helicopters landed at the epicenter immediately after each explosion?

Zhukov decided to consolidate the success of the exercise!

He immediately ordered us to prepare a ballet based on the same scenario for the following year. The code name of the exercise is "Rain". Everything is the same as last time, but in reality, not one corps, but two corps will attack through the epicenter! An attack by adjacent flanks of two corps through the epicenter!

And one more thing: immediately after the explosion, in 15-20 minutes, a paratrooper regiment should be dropped into the epicenter by helicopter. The soldiers will dig in, repel the enemy's attempts to close the gap, and at that time, the corps' strike groups will approach from the front.

The place is the same. You can't think of a better place than the Totsk training ground. The landscape, if you strain your imagination, looks like Bavaria.

Zhukov reported to Khrushchev. The latter agreed. He gave instructions to Chkalov and Kuibyshev: we will repeat the big concert in a year, get ready.

Comrade Pavlo Mykolayovych Korchagin, First Secretary of the Chkalovsk Regional Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, immediately ordered that his personal car be hitched to the first train. Kuibyshev is not far away. The Samara River originates near Chkalov, which used to be Orenburg, and flows straight to Kuibyshev, which used to be Samara. The railroad line

along the Samara River, one to the right of it, the other to the left. Halfway along is the same damned Totsk training ground.

Comrade Korchagin went straight from the station to his neighbor, the first secretary of the Kuibyshev Regional Committee of the CPSU, Comrade Mikhail Trofimovich Efremov: "What are we going to do?"

It was decided that Korchagin would be the first to address Khrushchev, because his arguments were weaker. Efremov would be the second, and supposedly independently, without revealing that they had colluded.

Korchagin returned to his home in Chkalov, called Khrushchev, reported on the overfulfillment of the industrial production plan, successes in agriculture, the growing level of communist consciousness among workers, peasants, and labor intellectuals, and smoothly moved on to the combat readiness of the troops of the South Ural Military District, which had increased unheard of as a result of the exercises held at the Totsk training ground. And in the end, he cautiously said that this could have been the end of the matter, because certain negative aspects became known.

— What other points?

— Our people are distrustful. They are told not to eat apples, not to dig potatoes. And they, our people, are told to keep a stake on their heads.

— Are there those who believe that you can't eat cabbage and cucumbers from gardens?

— There are such people, Nikita Sergeyevich. They don't eat it themselves, they take it to the market. They don't want to let the good go to waste. Or they give it to the state. No one has canceled the procurement plan.

— What other points?

— We reported that all cattle from the dangerous area were driven to safe places. And where are these safe places? There are a few villages five kilometers away, but there are also some ten kilometers away. You can drive cows from hundreds of yards away, but how do you drive pigs? They are fat on short legs. And what about chickens, geese, ducks? That's why the explosion injured a lot of animals, and those that were not killed are sick. And it's impossible to protect the cows that were driven away from diseases. They graze on the grass. How and to whom can you explain where the good grass is and where the radioactive grass is, so some uninformed citizens express dissatisfaction.

Khrushchev thought about it and decided that the exercise should go ahead. If you choose another place, you'll have two contaminated training grounds. It was better to hold the exercise in one place. He told his comrade Korchagin about it.

6

And then the next day, Comrade Mikhail Trofimovich Yefremov, First Secretary of the Kuibyshev Regional Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, called to report on the overfulfillment of the industrial production plan, successes in agriculture, and the growing level of communist consciousness among workers, peasants, and labor intellectuals, and then he smoothly turned to the combat readiness of the troops of the Volga Military District, which had increased dramatically as a result of the exercises held at the Totsk training ground.

He then expressed his full support for the idea of holding another such exercise. That's right! We need to learn how to repel the enemy! There are some negative aspects, but we are no strangers to that. The Samara River flows into the Volga right in the central part of Kuibyshev. Of course, it some radioactive isotopes into the Volga, but it's not much. The Volga is so wide and full of water.

There are hundreds of thousands of people in the city. The population of Kuibyshev is steadily approaching one million. The city is closed to any foreigners. This is because Kuibyshev is home to factories of incredible capacity and boundless secrecy. Our most important aviation plants are located in Kuibyshev, and missile production is also being developed here. Aircraft and missile production requires lightweight metals of special strength. We produce them right here in Kuibyshev. Air, water and soil contamination has exceeded all permissible limits, so a little bit of radiation will not spoil the picture and will not hurt the city.

The point is different: directly under the building of the regional committee of the Communist Party, right under the office of its first secretary, there is a secret bunker of Comrade Stalin. In the event of war, this bunker will be Comrade Khrushchev's central command post. The war, if the capitalists start it, will be atomic.

The First Secretary of the Kuibyshev Regional Committee asked the First Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee whether it was wise to contaminate the area of the central command post with radiation in peacetime.

Khrushchev promised to think about it.

He did not answer the first secretary of the Kuibyshev regional committee immediately, but only two weeks later.

Instead, he immediately called Zhukov and ordered the next military exercise with the practical use of nuclear weapons to be held.

Zhukov argued that was no other place like it.

Khrushchev suggested the Seven Palatine nuclear test site.

Zhukov objected even here: there was nowhere to deploy that many troops.

Khrushchev: conduct it without so many troops, conduct it with only two regiments - a helicopter regiment and an airborne regiment.

And Zhukov was out of arguments. He had to come up with another one on the fly: if it was held elsewhere, the planning and preparation would take more than a year.

Khrushchev cut him off: "Hold it in two years."

7

In July 1955, another plenum of the Central Committee was convened.

Until July 1955, the Presidium was composed only of those who had held commanding positions under Stalin. This plenum was already distinguished by the fact that Comrade Alexei Ilarionovich Kirichenko joined the Presidium of the Central Committee. For the first time since Stalin's death, the Presidium of the Central Committee included a new person who had not been a member of the highest echelon of power under Stalin. Comrade Kirichenko had been a member of Khrushchev's team in the prewar period.

On July 12, 1955, the plenum decided to convene the 20th Congress of the CPSU in early 1956.

Immediately after Stalin's death, Beria and Malenkov advocated condemnation of the cult of Stalin's personality and the choice of a new direction for the country's development.

Bulganin and Khrushchev were in favor of preserving Stalin's personality cult and the course toward socialism.

Beria was deposed and killed. Let's not forget that he was overthrown and killed not because he was a torturer-everyone there was a torturer-he was killed because he wanted to turn away from the path of socialism.

Malenkov was removed from the leadership of the economy.

Both were accused of betraying the great cause of Lenin-Stalin. Now that Beria and Malenkov no longer posed a danger, it was possible to use their ideas. Not all of them, but only some.

Khrushchev decided to debunk the cult of Stalin's personality.

But the country will continue to be led into a brighter tomorrow by Trotsky, Lenin, and Stalin.

Without turning.

ACTORS

Marshal of the Soviet Union IVAN STEPANOVICH KONEV

He was born in 1897. In the First World War, he was a junior non-commissioned officer. During the Civil War, he was an armored train commissar, brigade commander, division commander, and chief of staff of the Far Eastern Republic Army.

After the Civil War, he graduated from the Special Faculty of the Frunze Military Academy. He was a corps commander and commander of the 2nd Separate Far Eastern Army.

On November 26, 1935, he was promoted to the rank of commander. On February 22, 1938, he was promoted to the rank of Commodore.

On February 8, 1939, he was promoted to 2nd rank commander.

In 1940, Stalin re-certified all senior commanders and introduced new military ranks that had nothing to do with previous ranks. Commodore Zhukov was promoted to the rank of army general, and 2nd-rank commander Konev was promoted to the rank of lieutenant general.

In early 1941, Konev was appointed commander of the North Caucasus Military District. In May 1941, on Stalin's order, he secretly deployed the 19th Army in the district and personally led it.

On June 13, 1941, the 19th Army, like a number of other armies, began a secret advance into the western regions of the country. The war caught the 19th Army in the echelons. All of Stalin's plans were disrupted. Echelons of the 19th Army, some of them

parts of which had already been unloaded, was urgently deployed to Belarus, where the main forces of the Western Front were surrounded and defeated.

On September 11, 1941, Konev was appointed commander of the Western Front. On September 12, he was promoted to the rank of colonel general.

On October 2, 1941, German troops struck at the flanks of the Western Front. On October 7, the striking groups joined forces near Vyazma, closing a ring of encirclement around the main forces of the Western Front. Four Soviet armies were surrounded: the 19th, 20th, 24th, and 32nd. They consisted of 19 rifle divisions and 4 tank brigades. Different sources provide different information about how many Red Army soldiers and commanders were captured. In any case, it was more than 600 thousand.

The road to Moscow was open.

The Germans made a fatal mistake. Goebbels announced a grand victory on the radio. From the German radio broadcast, the Soviet leadership learned of the mortal threat to Moscow. Truly incredible efforts were made to transfer any reserves to the Moscow direction. Military colleges and militia units staffed by untrained and unfit older people were thrown into the defense of Moscow.

On October 16, panic broke out in Moscow, accompanied by robberies and looting.

The commander of the Western Front, Colonel-General Konev, was removed from command. He faced the fate of Army General Pavlov, who had commanded the Western Front in the early days of the war.

There are several versions of Konev's escape from arrest and execution. According to some sources, Zhukov interceded on Konev's behalf, while others say it was Beria.

Colonel-General Konev was appointed deputy commander of the Western Front. A day later, on October 17, 1941, the Kalinin Front was separated from the Western Front to defend Moscow from the northwest, and Konev was appointed its commander.

In the Battle of Rzhev, Konev's troops suffered huge losses without gaining any success.

In August 1942, Konev was appointed commander of the Western Front. The troops were suffering enormous losses in grandiose offensives, drowning in their own blood.

On February 27, 1943, Stalin removed Konev from the post of commander of the Western Front "as having failed to fulfill his duties."

Having removed Konev from the Western Front, Stalin appointed him commander of the Northwestern Front, whose offensive operation Konev immediately failed. Stalin again removed Konev and appointed him commander of the Steppe Military District. The name is misleading. In fact, the Steppe Military District was the most powerful strategic reserve ever created in the history of warfare. The Steppe Military District was located behind the two Soviet fronts that defended the Kursk salient.

On July 9, 1943, at 24.00, the Steppe Military District was renamed the Steppe Front and on July 17, it was put into battle.

On August 26, 1943, Stalin promoted Konev to the rank of army general for his distinguished service in the Battle of Kursk. Meanwhile, the front reached the Dnipro River and forced it on the move. In October, the Steppe Front was renamed the 2nd Ukrainian Front.

On February 20, 1944, Konev was awarded the Diamond Star of the Marshal of the Soviet Union for his distinguished service in the Korsun-Shevchenkivsk operation.

On March 26, 1944, the troops of the 2nd Ukrainian Front, developing the offensive, were the first to reach the western border of the Soviet Union and entered the territory of Romania. On Stalin's order, on this day Moscow saluted the troops of the 2nd Ukrainian Front with 24 artillery salvos from 324 guns.

In May 1944, Stalin put Konev in charge of the main direction of the war, appointing him commander of the 1st Ukrainian Front. In July and August 1944, the front's troops broke through into Poland, forcing the Vistula River in one place and occupying the Sandomierz bridgehead.

In January 1945, the troops of the 1st Ukrainian Front, in cooperation with the troops of the 1st Belorussian Front, invaded Germany. And in April, the two fronts carried out the Berlin Offensive, after which the 1st Ukrainian Front launched a swift attack on Prague.

Konev was a good man. One day, Air Chief Marshal Golovanov asked him: "Why, Vanya, do you your generals with a stick?"

Konev replied that if the general was beaten in the face, he would realize his mistake and correct it. If he was court-martialed, he would be shot.

There's no arguing with that: it's logical, even very logical. It's better to beat the general's face in.

Many of us admired this. Marshal of the Soviet Union Andrei Ivanovich Yeryomenko was generous with his money. Marshal of the Soviet Union Moskalenko did not lag behind.

But Marshal Zhukov of the Soviet Union was not like that at all.
Zhukov liked to shoot more.

After the war, Konev served as Commander-in-Chief of the Central Group of Forces in Austria, then as Deputy Minister of the Armed Forces and Commander-in-Chief of the Army.

In 1951, Stalin removed Marshal Konev from his high posts and sent him to command the Carpathian Military District.

After Stalin's death and Beria's arrest, Konev was appointed chairman of the Special Court Session that tried Beria and sentenced him to death.

In September 1954, the 128th Rifle Corps, reinforced by an artillery division, artillery and sapper brigades, and supported by three aviation divisions, operated at the Totsk training grounds.

However, the corps' actions were actually controlled by the command post of the 25th Army deployed during the exercise with a communication center.

And the actions of the 25th Army were actually led by the command point of the front
"Eastern" with a communication center. The "Eastern" front was commanded by Marshal Konev of the Soviet Union with a group of generals from the Department and Headquarters of the Carpathian Military District.

Konev, like the head of the exercises, Zhukov, was doing Khrushchev a great favor. By his actions, he showed those who had doubts: look, here I am, commanding the front as I did in the war. Only now we have such power in our hands that no enemies are scary.

After the exercise, Marshal Konev and a group of generals who had worked with him during the exercise returned to their duties in the Carpathian Military District.

But it was clear to everyone who was familiar with the order in the Soviet Army that Konev would not be in the Carpathian "exile" for long. Soon he would rise to the heights of the service.

As well as those who were close to him.

Lieutenant General Khadzhi-Umar Dzhiorovich Mamsurov

He was born September 15, 1903. He is an Ossetian. In the summer of 1918, at the age of 14, he voluntarily joined the Red Army, was a fighter in the Vladikavkaz Soviet of People's Commissars, the Mountain Red Hundred of the 11th Army, and the Tersk NK Operational Group.

After the Civil War, he held command positions in the Red Army cavalry.

In 1935, he underwent special training. At that time persons performing secret state functions were divided into secuks and secots, i.e. "secret authorized officers and secret employees. Mamsurov was appointed secuk of the Special Department "A" of the Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff of the Red Army, with the agent's pseudonym
- Xanthi.

Special Department "A" was engaged in the physical elimination of those who interfered with the great work of building communism around the world.

In August 1936, Xanti was appointed advisor (in fact, commander) of the 14th Corps of the Spanish Republican Army. The corps had yet to be formed. It was the world's first sabotage corps. Mamsurov created it and successfully led it.

For organizing and conducting a simultaneous sudden massive attack by sabotage groups on airfields of Italian and German aviation

Major Mamsurov was promoted to the rank of colonel (the rank of lieutenant colonel was introduced in the Red Army later), and was awarded the Order of Lenin, which, since its introduction, was officially considered the highest award of the Soviet Union and was particularly highly regarded at the time.

Ernest Hemingway personally knew the Macedonian Xanthi and used his image as a prototype for one of the characters in the novel For Whom the Bell Tolls, not realizing that he was a major in Soviet military intelligence.

In 1938-41, Colonel Mamsurov was the head of Department A (from 1940 - the 5th Department) of the Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff of the Red Army.

In May 1941, numerous groups of internationalist saboteurs were deployed to Belarus: Germans, Poles, French, and Spaniards. Mamsurov, at the head of an operational group of the General Staff, was stationed in the area of Brest and Baranovichi. He was to manage the deployment of sabotage groups to the German rear and their leadership.

Hitler thwarted these plans. The internationalist saboteurs could have been relied upon if the Red Army had been successfully advancing. But in the circumstances of general collapse, panic, and flight, the reliability of the mercenaries was questionable. Therefore, the mass deportation was canceled.

On July 4, 1941, Colonel Mamsurov, on Stalin's orders, personally participated in the arrest of Army General D. Pavlov, the commander of the Western Front, who was blamed for the defeat and, on orders from the Kremlin, was slandered and shot.

On July 10, 1941, Mamsurov was appointed Chief of the Intelligence Department of the Headquarters of the Western Command. In August, he became the head of a special task force of the Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff, which was responsible for sending reconnaissance and sabotage groups behind enemy lines (not internationalists, but Soviet citizens), and organizing the partisan movement on the Western, Northwestern, and Leningrad fronts.

In January 1942, Colonel Mamsurov was sent to the front at his personal request. There he commanded a cavalry division and was deputy commander of the 7th Cavalry Corps. From August 1942, he was the head of the Southern Headquarters of the partisan movement.

From November 1942, he was the head of the operational department (combat planning) of the Central Headquarters of the partisan movement.

On November 13, 1943, he was promoted to the rank of Major General and the position of Deputy Head of the 2nd Directorate of the GRU.

In the same year, at his personal request, he returned to the front and was assigned to the command of the 2nd Guards Crimean Order of Lenin, twice Red Banner Order of Bohdan Khmelnytsky Cavalry Division, which he commanded until the end of the war. He was awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union for successfully conducting a series of daring raids behind enemy lines. At the Victory Parade, he commanded a battalion of a consolidated regiment of the 1st Ukrainian Front.

After the war, Major General Mamsurov graduated from the General Staff Academy and was appointed commander of the 27th Mechanized Division of the 38th Army of the Carpathian Military District, and then commander of the 27th Rifle Corps of the 13th Army of the same district.

On August 3, 1953, Mamsurov was promoted to the rank of lieutenant general. In September 1954, Lieutenant General Mamsurov served as the Chief of Frontline Intelligence during exercises at the Totsk training ground.
"Eastern".

In 1955, he was appointed commander of the 38th Army of the Carpathian Military District.

Section 20

1

The exercises at the Totsk training ground had consequences not only for the Soviet Union. Exactly seven months later, on May 14, 1955, the Warsaw Pact was adopted. It was signed by the Soviet Union, Poland, the GDR, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, and Albania.

The bourgeois created the aggressive NATO bloc in 1949, and we created our own defense alliance only in 1955. This is an indicator of peacefulness.

That's not all: when concluding the Warsaw Pact, our leaders immediately announced that they were ready to dissolve the Warsaw Pact at any time if the bourgeois dissolved NATO. This is another indicator of our peacefulness: we are ready to dissolve our military alliance, but the damn bourgeois do not agree to such a step. Who is the aggressor?

The creation of the Warsaw Pact was due to the fact that West Germany joined NATO at that time, and we responded to this...

The question cannot be avoided: why did you wait so long?

It is strange that we are creating our defense alliance in response to another country joining NATO. Although it would be logical to create our defense alliance not in response to the strengthening of NATO in 1955, but in response to its creation in 1949.

What is it?

The point is that neither in 1949 nor later did Comrade Stalin need the Warsaw Pact at all.

I'll explain using the example of Poland, in whose capital the pact was signed.

2

On June 13, 1939, the district and regional military commissariats of the Soviet Union were instructed to return the reservists of Finnish nationality to the Red Army and send them all to the Leningrad Military District.

On August 23, 1939, Stalin and Hitler divided Poland with the help of Molotov and Ribbentrop. On September 1, Germany attacked Poland, taking responsibility for the outbreak of World War II. On September 17, units of the Red Army entered the territory of Poland.

On November 11, 1939, People's Commissar for Defense of the USSR Marshal Voroshylov signed an order to create the 106th Infantry Division within the Red Army. A division as a division. Just another division. However, not like the others. The division was manned by Finns and , who had been conscripted into the Red Army since June and gathered in the Leningrad area. Due to the lack of commanders of these nationalities, the leadership of the new 106th Division was staffed not only by Finns and Karelians, but also by Russians.

On November 23, 1939, the formation of the Finnish Corps began on the basis of the 106th Infantry Division. The corps commander was Red Army commander Axel Moiseevich Anttila. The corps commissioner was Brigadier Philip Ivanovich Egorov. Chief of Staff - Brigadier Fyodor Romanov.

The corps was to become the core of FDR's army, the Finnish Democratic Republic.

There was no such republic yet, but Comrade Stalin had already prepared a government, punitive bodies, and armed forces for it.

Comrade Stalin appointed Comrade Otto Wilhelmine Kuusinen, Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Comintern, as FDR's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister.

Comrade Tuuri Lehane took over as FDR's Minister of the Interior.

In 1925-1926, Comrade Lehen, under the agent pseudonym Langer, worked illegally in Germany, preparing an armed uprising of the proletariat not only in Germany but also in Czechoslovakia and Austria.

In 1927, Comrade Lehmann was appointed head of the Central Military and Political School of the Communist International. The school trained saboteurs from many countries. The main focus of the training was the seizure of power by force in the event of favorable circumstances.

During the Spanish Civil War, Comrade Lehen held the position of Chief of Staff of the International Brigade and fought as part of a sabotage corps commanded by a certain Xanti, i.e. Colonel of Soviet military intelligence Haji-Umar Dzhiorovich Mamsurov. In this story, we have already met him at the Totsk training ground, where he served as the chief of intelligence of the Eastern Front during the exercises.

In 1939, Comrade Stalin appointed Comrade Lehane, an avowed Soviet spy and saboteur, as Minister of the Interior of the Democratic Republic of Finland.

Lieutenant General of the People's Army of Finland (at the same time a commander of the Red Army) Axel Moiseevich Anttila became the Minister of Defense and commander of the 1st Corps of the Finnish People's Army.

What should the soldiers of FDR's army wear?

There were no problems. The Red Army captured a lot of booty in Poland. Including the mobilization warehouses of the Polish Army. FDR's soldiers were dressed in Polish overcoats, having their insignia confiscated and replaced with newly invented ones.

As soon as Comrade Stalin secretly formed the FDR government, headed by Comrades Kuusinen, Lehane, and Anttila, as soon as Comrade Voroshilov formed a corps to liberate Finland, a shell came from Finnish territory as if on order and exploded on our soil!

- "So you have decided to attack the Soviet Union! So get a strike in return!

It was immediately announced that the people of Finland had risen up, that the rebels had formed their own government and army, that they were fighting to liberate Finland from the yoke of capitalists.

The head of FDR's government, Comrade Kuusinen, appealed to the government of the Soviet Union for help. A mutual aid agreement was signed. Moreover, the head of the FDR government, Comrade Kuusinen, forgetting that he was no longer a nomenklatura worker of the Central Committee of the (b), but the head of a free

sovereign state, signed on treaty in the letters of the Russian alphabet.

Prime Minister FDR Kuusinen (behind the desk) and Chairman of the USSR Council of People's Commissars Molotov (first left) sign a mutual aid agreement

The Red Army extended a hand of friendship to the rebellious people of Finland...

There was a hiccup in Finland. The liberation was thwarted.

But it is interesting to look at what the heroes of this story did on June 22, 1941.

FDR's former Secretary of Defense, Major General Anttila, became deputy commander of the 34th Infantry Corps of the 19th Army.

It was the most powerful rifle corps the Red Army, with five divisions, including one mountain rifle division. The corps was commanded by Lieutenant General R. P. Khmelnytsky, General for Special Assignments of Marshal Voroshilov of the Soviet Union. The corps

as part of the 19th Army, secretly moved to the most advantageous direction of the coming liberation war - the Romanian one. The 19th Army was commanded by Lieutenant General I. S. Konev.

In May 1941, FDR's former Secretary of the Interior, Comrade Tuuri Lehane, headed the NKVD sabotage and intelligence network in Karelia and the Baltic States.

The former head of the government and FDR's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Comrade Otto Kuusinen, was appointed Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR in 1940 and was promoted to the rank of member of the Central Committee of the CPSU in February 1941. On October 16, 1952, he became a member of the Presidium of the CPSU Central Committee. Immediately after Stalin's death, he was expelled from there. But on June 29, 1957, he appointed Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and a member of the Presidium of the CPSU Central Committee. Kuusinen died on a combat post at the age of 82.

But how does all this relate to the Warsaw Pact, signed on May 14, 1955?

Directly.

3

In the spring of 1940, the color of the Polish officer corps was exterminated. The extermination was led by State Security Commissioner of the 3rd rank Ivan Aleksandrovich Serov.

In recent years, several articles and even books have been published in Russia, expressing a timid doubt: did our valiant Chekists actually commit the crime? They are so kind and gentle. Or maybe it was the Germans after all?

Let us dispel your doubts.

On May 22, 2008, Russia's Chief Military Prosecutor's Office refused to hand over to Poland the files on the mass shootings of Polish officers. The reason for the refusal is that most of the volumes are classified as "Secret" or
"Top secret".

Of the 187 volumes of the case, 67 volumes were handed over to the Polish side because the rest "contain state secrets."

On January 26, 2011, the Supreme Court of Russia ruled that the classification of the case files was legal.

That's it. There is nothing more to argue about.

Let's think: why are the documents classified? Whose secret is the Russian Supreme Court guarding like a prison dog? Whose crimes are being covered up by the Chief Military Prosecutor's Office?

If the Nazis had committed the crime, they should have dumped all these volumes on the table of an international tribunal in Nuremberg in 1946.

But for some reason these volumes were not released. For some reason they were classified as early as April 1940.

If the crime was committed by the Nazis, why would the Soviet Union then, and Russia now, hide the traces of Nazi crimes? What is the personal interest of the Chief Military Prosecutor and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Russia?

Let's take the position of those who blame the Nazis for this crime and see what happens.

Thus, the Nazis committed a horrific war crime. The Chief Military Prosecutor and the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation are hiding documents that expose Nazi torturers, thus preventing

justice against the Nazis. This implies that the Chief Military Prosecutor and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation are enemies of our Motherland, accomplices of Hitler's executioners.

Immediately after the war, Hitler's henchmen were publicly hanged in the squares of Soviet cities.

If Russian judges and prosecutors are hiding the traces of SS crimes, then they are all Nazi collaborators, and they should all be punished by our most just laws. Why does Russia need traitors to the Motherland and Hitler's henchmen in the Supreme Court and the Chief Military Prosecutor's Office?

I am not at all insisting that the entire staff of the Supreme Court of Russia and the Chief Military Prosecutor's Office be sentenced to imprisonment without the right to correspond. In my opinion, life sentences in Solikamsk would be enough.

No kidding: the documents on the execution of Polish officers were classified by the leadership of the Soviet Union, and they remain secret and top secret by order of the Russian leadership.

This is an admission of guilt.

Sorry, we got carried away. So, in the spring of 1940, the Soviet secret police exterminated the flower of the Polish officer corps.

On November 2, 1940, Comrade Stalin instructed Comrade Beria to begin preparations for the formation of a Polish division on the territory of the Soviet Union, manning it with captured Polish soldiers and surviving officers.

In November 1939, a Finnish division was created as part of the Red Army, which was immediately deployed to a corps. The division, and later the corps, was created for the liberation of Finland.

I can't understand why Comrade Stalin would want a Polish division in the Red Army. Who was he fighting against? Stalin divided Poland with Hitler. Hitler was a loyal friend, and Comrade Stalin did not expect an attack from Germany. Why did he need a Polish division?

4

Preparations for the creation of the Polish division began immediately. The main thing was to secretly check the reliability of everyone. And not to make an official decision yet.

Many Polish soldiers and surviving officers believed that Hitler and Stalin were equally responsible for the partition of Poland. Such people should have been identified and not accepted into the newly created Polish units.

And some believed that Hitler attacked first, so he was the main culprit, so we should fight against Hitler. It didn't matter who you were in league with. Even with the devil himself.

Those who thought so should have been identified and kept on the books until the right time.

Such moment came in early June 1941.

A top secret decision to create a Polish division was made on June 4, 1941. The division received the number 238th Rifle Division of the Red Army. The deadline for readiness was July 1, 1941.

In terms of number and name, the Polish division was no different from Soviet divisions. The documents read: 238th Division. And that was all. Any spy, having obtained a document on the formation of another Soviet division, would have yawned in his hand - nothing special.

And the peculiarity was that the formation of the Polish division was a violation of the Treaty of Friendship and Frontier with Germany.

The peculiarity was that on November 2, 1940, before Comrade Molotov's trip to Berlin, Comrade Stalin had already firmly decided to break the treaty with Hitler and attack him. The Polish division was not needed for any other purpose.

I will say more. For decades, Soviet propaganda claimed that before the war, the peace-loving comrade Stalin was at his heart: "How not to give Hitler a reason to attack."

Thus, the formation of Polish units in the Red Army is not only a pretext for Hitler, but also a reason to attack in order to preempt the Soviet attack.

The readiness of the Polish division by July 1, 1941, was indicative of something. I believed that Stalin was preparing an attack on Germany on July 6, 1941. In recent years, after the publication of the works of other researchers, primarily Mark Solonin and Vladimir Beshanov, my confidence has been somewhat shaken.

Toward the approach of this date.

5

On June 22, 1941, Hitler thwarted Stalin's plans.

And everything went wrong. Stalin had to ask for help from the United States and Great Britain. And if so, he had to recognize the Polish government in London.

This created new difficulties. If the Polish government in London was recognized, then when forming Polish units, they had to take any captured Polish soldiers and surviving officers, not just those chosen by their Soviet comrades from the NKVD.

It was decided to form a Polish corps consisting of two divisions (10,000 soldiers each) and a reserve regiment (5,000 soldiers), with the corps headquarters and reserve regiment at Buzuluk station, one division to be formed at Totsk and the other at Tatishchevsk training grounds.

There was something familiar about Buzuluk station , Totsk landfill... We've seen these names before. Spuddy! Now I remember.

It is interesting to note that on the part of the General Staff of the Red Army, the formation of Polish units was led by Major General of Tank Troops Aleksey Pavlovich Panfilov.

He introduced himself to the Polish commanders as the authorized representative of the General Staff of the Red Army for the formation of Polish units. This was true. But not completely. After all, Panfilov, a tank major general, was also the deputy head of the Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff of the Red Army, and from October 1941 he was the head of that glorious cohort of secret front fighters.

The Polish side insisted on the formation of a powerful army. Comrade Stalin fought back stubbornly.

In the fall of 1941, the Soviet Union stood on the brink of destruction. Having crushed the Western Front under the command of Colonel-General Konev, the German army rushed to Moscow. On October 16, an unprecedented panic broke out in the capital of our homeland, accompanied by the looting of shops, government offices, and private apartments, fires, murders, crowd riots, massive document burning, and the flight of leaders of various ranks. Black clouds of smoke from burned documents and real threat hung over Moscow

capture. At this time, captured Polish soldiers, surviving officers and generals were rushing into battle, but Stalin stubbornly refused to form a powerful Polish army. Why?

And because Stalin needed not just a Polish army, but a submissive Polish army.

Most Polish soldiers and surviving officers considered both Hitler and Stalin equally responsible for the partition of Poland and the outbreak of World War II. If you arm such an army, how can you control it? Stalin did not need such an army. And he said that there was nothing to feed the great Polish army, nothing to arm it with.

In August 1941, the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom occupied Iran, and even then Churchill offered: "If you, dear Stalin, have nothing to feed and nothing to arm the Polish army with, send it to Iran, I will have food, uniforms, and weapons for the Polish army."

In the summer of 1942, General Anders' Polish units were sent to Iran.

On Soviet territory remained those soldiers and officers who were ready to fight against Germany on any front, in alliance with anyone. Even with Stalin himself.

It was from these soldiers and surviving officers that the Polish division was formed. It was supplied with food, uniforms, and weapons. Supply rates were set exactly like those for Soviet guards divisions.

Soon the Polish division was deployed to the corps, then to the 1st Polish Army. For some reason, there was a shortage of officers, and Comrade Stalin generously shared his command staff. In October 1944, 11513 Soviet officers and generals fought in Polish units.

In 1945, the Polish Army had two armies (the 1st and 2nd), a tank corps, an aviation corps, and other units.

Again, Comrade Stalin had the most modern airplanes (Yak-3, Il-2, Pe-2) and the most modern tanks (IS-2 and T-34-85).

6

Control over the Polish army was organized quite simply: young Polish officers were trained in Soviet military schools, with an emphasis on political trustworthiness. Polish officers and generals were systematically and persistently replaced by Red Army officers and generals in the highest positions.

Examples:

On May 9, 1938, the Chief of Staff of the 19th Rifle Corps of the Red Army, Brigadier Vladyslav Viktorovych Korchyts, was arrested. He was under investigation until January 20, 1940. Official documents of the time stated that the investigation was "conducted with the use of physical force." That is, with beating with a rubber hose, burning his heels on an electric tile, and filing his teeth. Hunger, cold, overcrowded, smelly cells, kicks from the choppers - a kind of free appendix.

Major General V. Korchyts

And this is Chief of the General Staff of the Polish Army W. Korczyc

In January, Vladyslav Korchyts was released from the NKVD torture chambers and reinstated in the ranks of the indomitable and legendary Red Army. In May 1940, during the re-certification of the senior command staff, Brigadier Korchyts was promoted to the rank of colonel. That is, he was demoted one step below his previous level.

From the first days of the war, Colonel Korchyts successfully commanded the Infantry Division. On August 4, 1942, he was promoted to the rank of Major General. In September 1942, he was appointed Deputy Commander of the 34th Army, and in December - Chief of Staff of the 1st Shock Army.

In April 1944, Major General Korczyc received an order to accept the position of Chief of Staff of the 1st Polish Army. In September of the same year, he became Chief of Staff of the Polish Army. On October 27, 1944, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant general and the position of commander of the 1st Polish Army.

On January 1, 1945, Korczyc became Chief of the General Staff of the Polish Army.

On July 11, 1946, he was promoted to the rank of colonel general by Resolution No. 1545 of the Council of Ministers of the USSR. The resolution was signed by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Generalissimo of the Soviet Union, Comrade Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin.

Colonel-General Korczyc remained Chief of the General Staff of the Polish Army until January 18, 1954. All three general ranks were awarded by decrees of the USSR government. All three resolutions were signed by Stalin himself. In 1954, Colonel General Korczyc returned to the Soviet Union and retired from the army.

Another example.

In 1938, Major Stanislav Hilyarovych Poplavskyi was discharged from the Red Army and appointed director of the Kultura pig farm.

You can't this up on purpose: pork culture.

In 1939, Poplavsky returned to the army and was appointed head of the operational department of the 162nd Infantry Division headquarters. During the war, he commanded a regiment. In January 1942, Lieutenant Colonel Poplavsky was given command of the 185th Infantry Division. The same year he was promoted to colonel, and on February 14, 1943, to major general. In June 1943, he was given command of the 45th Infantry Corps.

In September 1944, Major General S.G. Popławski was appointed commander of the 2nd Polish Army, then commander of the 1st Polish Army. In the same year, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant general. In 1945, he was awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

After the Second World War, Lieutenant General Popławski, Hero of the Soviet Union, was the commander of the Polish Army's ground forces and Deputy Minister of National Defense of Poland.

On July 11, 1946, by the same resolution of the Council of Ministers of the USSR № In 1545, Poplavsky was promoted to the rank of colonel general under Stalin's signature.

Since 1947, he has been a member of the Polish Sejm, and since 1949, a member of the Central Committee of the Polish Workers' Party.

Commander of the Land Forces of the Polish Army S. Poplawski

And this is General of the Soviet Union Army S. Poplavsky

While serving in the Polish Army, as Deputy Minister of National Defense of Poland, Popławski was promoted to the rank of General of the Soviet Army on August 12, 1955. The rank was awarded by a decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. The decree was signed by the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Marshal of the Soviet Union K.E. Voroshilov.

There are many examples. Here is the third. In September 1943, Comrade Stalin appointed Lieutenant General of the Tank Troops Dmitry Karpovich Mostovenko as commander of the armored troops of the Polish Army. He was originally from the city of Uryupinsk. He did not speak Polish. On July 11, 1946, Comrade Stalin promoted Dmytro Mostovenko to the rank of Colonel-General of the Tank Troops by Resolution No. 1545 of the Council of Ministers of the USSR. In July 1947, Stalin ordered Colonel-General Mostovenko to return to the Soviet Union, where he consistently commanded tank formations of the Odesa and then Belarusian military districts.

Here is an example of not a single, but a group appointment of Soviet officers and generals to leadership positions in the army of a neighboring state. In September 1944, the command of the 6th Air Force of the Red Army was

was transformed into the Air Force Department of the Polish Army. The command of an entire army, staffed by our native Soviet citizens, suddenly became Polish. Although no one there could speak Polish.

The commander of the 6th Air Army, Hero of the Soviet Union, Lieutenant General of Aviation Fedor Petrovich Polynin, accordingly became the commander of the Air Force of the Polish Army. Fyodor Polynin was originally from Saratov region. It is not very far from Uryupinsk. Sometimes I want to shout back to 1944: "Fyodor, what kind of Poles are we?!"

Saratov's Fedka commanded the Polish air force until 1947. On July 11, 1946, by the same resolution of the Council of Ministers of the USSR
No. 1545, signed by the same Comrade Stalin, Polynin was promoted to the rank of Colonel General of Aviation. After that, he returned to the Soviet Union, switched from Polish to Russian, and continued to serve in high positions in the Soviet Air Force until 1971.

In addition to commanders, there were Soviet "advisors" in the Polish Army and other state structures. For example, on March 6, 1945, State Security Commissioner of the 2nd rank Ivan Aleksandrovich Serov, among other positions, received another one - advisor to the NKVD of the USSR at the Ministry of Public Security of Poland.

We have seen Serov's name somewhere before. Katyn, Medne, Pyatikhatka... Ivan Aleksandrovich Serov knew how to restore order through mass executions. He gave good advice. He was an intelligent advisor.

It should be added here that the victorious Red Army was followed by NKVD troops. Their task was to protect the rear. They guarded the rear by conducting raids and punitive operations. They also went through Poland.

So, on the one hand, the extermination of all those who resist, on the other hand, the appointment of Uryupinsky guys to top command positions in "liberated" countries.

Marshal of the Soviet Union K.K. Rokosovsky

And this is Marshal Rokosowski Poland

But that was not all. The liberation of each country meant that the Red Army would be stationed on its territory. This was the case in Poland. The Northern Group of Forces was deployed on its territory on April 21, 1945, during the war. The commander of the Northern Group was Marshal Rokosovsky of the Soviet Union.

In 1949, Colonel General K. P. Trubnikov, Rokosovsky's deputy, became the commander of the PGV.

And Rokosowski was promoted to the rank of Marshal of Poland and the post of Minister of National Defense. In 1950, twice Hero of the Soviet Union, Marshal of Poland Rokosowski became a member of the Politburo of the Polish Workers' Party. In 1952, he became Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Poland.

Marshal Rokosowski spoke Polish as part of his official duties. But there were also incidents. He was an elegant, polite, tall, handsome man. Of all the Soviet military commanders who commanded the fronts during the war, he was the only one who did not show rudeness toward his subordinates. Once Marshal of Poland

Rokosovsky received some paper from his secretary, looked at it, and gave a short order: "Sort it out and come in."

In Polish, it meant: "Take off your clothes and come in."

The Polish army lived by statutes copied from the Soviet ones. The disciplinary statute was as follows: the order of the superior is the law for the subordinate. The Polish Marshal had to apologize and explain to a pretty woman that he meant something else.

This is probably just an anecdote. But it sounds very much like the truth. In a foreign language, or in your native language, but long forgotten, you can say things like that.

7

Now let's think about it: why would Comrade Stalin sign the Warsaw Pact in 1949? With whom? With Marshal Rokosowski of Poland? With the Soviet Army colonel generals Korchits, Poplavsky, and Polynin? Stalin personally conferred ranks on all of them. He could have not assigned them. Or he could have taken away the rank just as easily. He could have called them from Poland and sent them anywhere, even to the Kolyma to drive a wheelbarrow, to a pig farm, or to an execution cellar.

From August 17, 1937, to March 23, 1940, Commander Rokosovsky was held in the internal prison of the Guggenheim Department of the NKVD. Two and a half years of investigation and torture. Nine teeth were knocked out, three ribs were broken, and his toes were smashed with a hammer. And on top of that, a death sentence. With the execution. Rokosovsky was shot twice. With blanks.

So why would Comrade Stalin conclude a contract with Rokosovsky? He could have his other teeth knocked out, all his ribs broken, his fingers crushed, and then be shot... by combatants.

But you don't have to shoot him. You can appoint him head of the Kultura pig farm.

The same can be done with the rest of the comrades. They were already ready for this attitude. And not at all because of overheard conversations.

But Poland is a special case. From the first day of World War II, Poland fought against Germany. Poland has been our ally in World War II since 1941.

In Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria, things were much simpler. Here, any citizen could be declared a Nazi accomplice. With all the consequences. Try to justify yourself.

The troops of Hungary and Romania fought against the Soviet Union. Here, in general, everyone could be put against the wall without going into details.

I am not even mentioning East Germany.

And the Red Army visited all of these countries. And after them came the NKVD troops. And there were Soviet garrisons there, and our advisers were appointed to all state structures.

Therefore, Stalin did not need to conclude any military alliances with the governments of the conquered countries. Everything was under his control.

But if Stalin had no reason to conclude the Warsaw Pact, why did Khrushchev? After all, in 1955, the same member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Polish Workers' Party, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of National Defense of the Polish People's Republic, twice Hero of the Soviet Union, Marshal of Poland K.K. Rokosowski was sitting in Warsaw.

Khrushchev needed the Warsaw Pact for two reasons.

First, the class brothers had to be shown that the friendly embrace of the Soviet Union did not weaken after Stalin's death. We all followed Stalin's path, and we will continue to do so. Everyone could see this during the exercises at the Totsk training ground. To dispel the last doubts, Khrushchev decided to bind all his beloved brothers legally.

Second, Khrushchev needed the Warsaw Pact as a bargaining chip. We are ready to dissolve the Warsaw Pact organization if the bourgeois dissolve NATO.

But if NATO is dissolved, the voluntary defense alliance of the West will disintegrate.

If we dissolve the Warsaw Pact organization, nothing will change. All the countries that the Red Army forgot to leave after World War II will remain under the full control of the Soviet Union.

KEY POINT

We know how to humiliate. You can't take that away.

In 1955, Khrushchev decided: The commander-in-chief of the joint armed forces of the Warsaw Pact countries will be a Soviet marshal, and the chief of the joint staff will be a Soviet general. Always. There were no options.

These are flowers.

It would be an insult to any country if Khrushchev said: "Comrade younger brothers, the defense ministers of all your countries will

directly subordinate to the Minister of Defense of the USSR, Marshal of the Soviet Union Zhukov, the chiefs of staff of your armies will become subordinates of the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the USSR, Marshal of the Soviet Union Sokolovsky.

Ministers of a sovereign country cannot be subordinate to a minister of another country.

But Khrushchev went even further. He decided to let the Commander-in-Chief of the Joint Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact countries be the First Deputy Minister of Defense of the USSR, and let the Chief of the Joint Staff be the First Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

That is, the ministers of formally independent states will not be directly subordinate to our minister. No! Your ministers will be subordinate to our deputy minister. The chiefs of your most important staffs will not be directly subordinate to our Chief of the General Staff, but only to his deputy.

Khrushchev only had to choose a candidate for the post of commander-in-chief of the joint armed forces of the Warsaw Pact.

The choice was simple and the only one.

Marshal of the Soviet Union I. S. Konev judged Marshal of the Soviet Union Beria. Well done!

Marshal of the Soviet Union I. S. Konev was the commander of the front "Eastern" during exercises at the Totsk training ground. Again, well done!

So he should command our brothers.

Konev was returned from the Carpathian Military District and appointed First Deputy Minister of Defense of the USSR, Commander-in-Chief of the Joint Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact.

The situation is as follows.

The Minister of National Defense of Poland is Marshal of the Soviet Union Rokosowski. He reports to the First Deputy Minister of Defense of the USSR, Marshal of the Soviet Union Konev. And the First Deputy Minister of Defense of the USSR, Marshal of the Soviet Union Konev, reports to the Minister of Defense of the USSR, Marshal of the Soviet Union Zhukov.

This is the military brotherhood. The Joint Armed Forces are almost the same as the 1st Corps of the Democratic Republic of Finland. There, the commander was supervised by a political commissar with an almost Finnish surname, Yegorov. And the combat operations were planned by a Red Army brigadier with a surname that sounded like Finnish names, Romanov.

Section 21

1

On May 15, 1955, in Vienna, representatives of the Soviet Union, the United States, Great Britain, and France signed a state treaty with Austria.

During World War II, Austria and Germany were a single country. After the defeat in the war, Germany and Austria were divided and occupied by the armies of four powers.

Exactly ten years have passed since the end of the war. The heads of the great powers decided to withdraw American, Soviet, British, and French troops from Austria and sign a treaty that declared Austria a neutral state, meaning that it could no longer join military alliances, have foreign troops on its soil, or participate in any military conflicts except for the defense of its own territory.

Everything is clear, simple, understandable. We signed it, and the troops were withdrawn.

More than half a century has passed since the signing of the treaty, and Austria lives and thrives without threatening or disturbing anyone.

Two months after the signing of treaty with Austria, on July 18, 1955, an international on Germany opened in Geneva.

After the defeat of the Third Reich, the Soviet Union, the United States, Great Britain, and France divided Germany into occupation zones. In those zones where American, British, and French troops were stationed, life after the war quickly took a new turn: the economy was restored, and living standards were rapidly rising. And where Soviet troops were stationed, the first-ever "socialist state on German soil" emerged.

It is clear that Germans from the socialist state fled to West Germany.

Eisenhower and Zhukov during a meeting in Berlin in 1945.

The leaders of the four powers gathered in Geneva to address the question: what to do with Germany next?

At the meeting in Geneva, the Soviet Union was represented by Comrades Khrushchev, Bulganin, and Zhukov. The American delegation was headed by D. Eisenhower.

In 1945, Eisenhower and Zhukov were great military leaders. They met in Berlin as allies who had defeated Germany. In the summer of 1945, Eisenhower visited the Soviet Union.

On August 12, 1945, he stood on the podium of Lenin's mausoleum between Stalin and Zhukov.

Now Zhukov and Eisenhower are no longer allies.

And yet: Zhukov remained a great military commander, and Eisenhower remained President of the United States.

They don't know how to appreciate military leaders. They don't. There's no such thing as... All right, then.

2

In 1955, the German question not resolved.

Because behind Eisenhower's back stood the evil Dulles, whispering vile advice in his ear. Dulles proposed to do in Germany what had been done in Austria: to unite the country, withdraw all foreign troops from its territory, sign a treaty, make Germany neutral...

You have to be such a viper!

It was a stroke of genius to think of this!

No! This is not our way. It's not our way. And we will never go for it. The Soviet delegation strongly rejected the proposals of Western leaders.

Wait a minute. What's the difference? The decision regarding Austria was made quickly and without any problems. But the exact same decision regarding Germany was absolutely unthinkable and unacceptable to the leaders of the Soviet Union. Why?

Austria was as much a part of the Third Reich as Bavaria or Prussia. And Hitler himself was a free artist from Vienna, not Berlin. So why is it possible to make Austria neutral, but not Germany?

Great Britain and France fought twice against Germany in the lifetime of one generation. Both suffered, especially France in World War II. If Germany becomes neutral, then both Britain and France will have enough reasons to monitor neutrality very . If the Soviet Union, for its part, is equally vigilant about neutrality, then no revanchists will ever be able to seize power in Germany again and start a new war.

However, the leaders of the Soviet Union spoke many of the right words during the meeting, but they evaded signing the same treaty as with Austria.

3

And the box was not closed, if one only casts an insightful glance at the map of Europe. In his speech, which for some reason is considered to be the beginning of the Cold War, the ousted Chur-chill drew the attention of the esteemed public to the sad fact that "from Szczecin on the Baltic to Trieste on the Adriatic, across the entire continent, the
"Iron Curtain".

So let's draw this line on the map from the Baltic to the Adriatic, and call it not the Iron Curtain, but the frontier of the socialist camp. We are facing the heavily armed forces of the imperialists and revanchists. Now let's highlight Austria, which has become neutral, with some color. And let's clap our hands with delight: by becoming neutral, Austria has cut the strategic front of our likely enemies into two parts.

Neutral Austria stretches from east to west, dividing Central and Southern Europe by a barrier. And beyond neutral Austria, further west, lies neutral Switzerland.

If the Soviet Army launches a liberation campaign in West Germany, our marshals will not have to fear for their flanks. The right flank of the theater of operations is covered by the Baltic Sea, and leftby two neutral states.

If we succeed in building our naval bases in Libya, Egypt, Syria, and best of all, in Yugoslavia, we can safely fight on the Mediterranean Sea and its shores without fear of a rapid and powerful deployment of American and other troops from Central Europe, with neutral Austria lying in their way.

That is why the Kremlin leaders agreed to the treaty with Austria without objection.

Why not sign a similar agreement with Germany?

It was because Khrushchev and Zhukov needed all of Germany. The whole of it. And not a peaceful, neutral, well-fed, prosperous one, but our own, fraternal, proletarian one.

If we face enemies in West Germany, we will break their defense with nuclear strikes, throw our corps and armies into breakthroughs.

They will follow the Sun to the ocean. The scenario is quite possible be realized by the explosion of the Tatyana at the Totsk test site - it has been tested.

It will be a limited nuclear war that may not go beyond Central Europe.

We will defeat a hostile, revanchist Germany that rattles its weapons and has already started two world wars. This will be forgiven and forgotten.

But if Germany becomes neutral, then the Kremlin leaders will have to give up their liberation campaigns in Europe. Breaking down the defense of a neutral state with nuclear explosions could be misinterpreted around the world. We will not be understood.

And Zhukov was preparing to break down the defense. And it was in Central Europe.

4

On July 20, 1955, Eisenhower and Zhukov met.

The conversation was translated and recorded by Oleg Troyanovsky, the future USSR Representative to the UN. The recording of the conversation is kept in the Russian State Military Archive (Fond 41107, inventory 1, case 58, sheets 2-13).

During the interview, Zhukov said that he "conducted many exercises with the use of nuclear and hydrogen weapons and saw with my own eyes how deadly these weapons are."

Heorhii Konstantinovych deviated slightly from the truth. He did not conduct exercises using nuclear weapons many times, but only once. And neither he nor anyone else in the world had ever conducted exercises using hydrogen weapons, either before Zhukov or after him. Many tests were conducted, but no one thought of training troops megaton-class charges.

Later in the conversation, Zhukov expressed deep concern about the fate of the planet if the United States and the USSR exchange nuclear strikes of equal strength:

> "If in the early days of the war the United States had dropped 300-400 bombs on the USSR, and the Soviet Union, in turn, dropped the same number of bombs on the United States, you can imagine what would have happened to the atmosphere."

That's how peaceful our Minister of Defense was.

Zhukov was terribly reluctant to ruin the atmosphere of our beautiful planet, so he explained to the clueless US President that the exchange of nuclear strikes of equal force could lead to unpredictable consequences.

However, there could not be blows of equal force.

At the time of the meeting between Zhukov and Eisenhower, the US Strategic Air Command was armed with an intercontinental strategic bomber B-36 - hybrid piston and

jet aircraft. The B-36 was originally designed with six piston engines. Then it was modernized by adding four more jet engines. This increased the maximum speed to 685 km/h. The B-36 could fly to the United States, bomb anywhere in the Soviet Union, and return home without refueling. The American industry produced 384 of these aircraft.

The Soviet Union was surrounded on all sides by American military bases: in Norway, the United Kingdom, Spain, West Germany, Italy, Turkey, Greece, Japan, South Korea, and the Pacific Islands. Therefore, the B-36 bombers were guaranteed cover by fighters that could take off from airfields scattered around the Soviet Union, as well as from aircraft carriers. And the B-36 bomber was not afraid of anti-aircraft artillery fire because it flew too high.

In February 1955, the first B-52 intercontinental jet bombers entered service with the US Air Force. The combat radius was 7210 kilometers. That is, you can take off from America, bomb the Soviet Union, and return to America. The maximum speed was 957 km/h, the maximum bomb load was 31 tons, and the altitude was unheard of. In 2013, as I write this, the B-52 is still in service.

At the time of Zhukov and Eisenhower's nice conversation, the United States, in addition to three hundred B-36s and a few of the first B-52s, had a B-47 jet bomber. It had no intercontinental range. More precisely, it did, but only in one direction. However, the presence of many American bases around the Soviet Union made this inconvenience null and void: the aircraft could be kept at a safe distance from the Soviet Union, at the right time, driven to advanced airfields, refueled, bombed, and sent on a flight with a return to bases in the UK, Norway, West Germany, Turkey, South Korea, etc. The American industry has produced 2041 such aircraft.

In addition, at the time of the meeting between Zhukov and Eisenhower, American aircraft carriers had already received Skyhawk deck attack aircraft, which could also carry nuclear weapons.

At that time, the Soviet Union had no intercontinental transportation facilities.

5

Zhukov's touching concern for the preservation of the atmosphere hid the Soviet Union's nuclear impotence.

Zhukov was bluffing, playing with his inflatable muscles. At that time, the Soviet Union did not have 300-400 strategic nuclear weapons.

Even if they did, it would be impossible to deliver them. Both the piston-powered Tu-4 and the first Tu-16s that entered service could theoretically carry Tatiana to America. But only one way. There was not enough kerosene to return.

The difference was that in the event of war, American bombers, who were not vulnerable to anti-aircraft artillery fire, would be covered by their fighters, while the Soviet Union had no bases around the United States, so it would have to operate without cover.

If it were possible to recruit suicide bombers for a suicidal one-way flight, the piston-powered Tu-4 could not even theoretically break through the air defense system. Neither could the Tu-16.

So why did Zhukov speculate about the unpredictable consequences of exchanging nuclear strikes of equal force, if the Soviet Union did not actually have the power to launch such a strike at the time?

If Zhukov's interest was to save the planet from destruction, he should have explained to Eisenhower in a friendly manner that the military was not going to give away the number of charges and carriers, but let the American people know that you will destroy us, but we have hidden several charges outside the Soviet Union just in case. And our guys are already living in certain countries. After you strike us with nuclear weapons, our guys will carry the elements of the charges across Canada and Mexico, assemble them, and detonate them in your cities. How much does Chicago need? Oh, how the skyscrapers will fall in all directions from the epicenter!

Zhukov could have frightened us more, saying that we are so timid that we have already accumulated the necessary stocks in the United States. In disassembled form. We'll have to reassemble and cut them down. Without any missiles or bombers. So you guys... don't be the first to attack, or you'll get yours anyway.

But Zhukov did not care about the fate of his country and the entire planet.

Zhukov was preparing a breakthrough of Soviet tanks to West Germany and then to the ocean. But such actions could have resulted in a nuclear strike from across the ocean. That's why Zhukov tried to distract Eisenhower from defending Europe. He said that no matter what happened here, America should not get involved in the fight. Otherwise, you would use 300-400 atomic bombs on us, and we would use the same number on you, so that we would not destroy the planet.

It was thrown in as if by accident during a discussion of a completely different issue. It was thrown with confidence, as if it were a matter of course: you have 300-400 and we have the same number.

Who would have thought that this player had no trump card in his deck, no money behind him, and a hole in his pockets?

Modern Russian has an absolutely precise expression for this situation: to take the piss.

Could the President of the United States have assumed that a petty crook, covered in gold stars, was sitting across the table from him?

6

Khrushchev-Zhukov's pontifications cost our people too much.

It wasn't enough for them to tell the world that we have many charges and carriers as the United States. Khrushchev went further.

1963 of the year Voenizdat published the book "Military Strategy".

The author's team:

Marshal of the Soviet Union Sokolovsky, colonel
generals - 1,
Lieutenant Generals - 3,
Major Generals - 5,
Colonels - 10.

Published on April 18, 1963. My copy reads: "Revised and expanded edition." So there was a previous edition. I have not been able to find it. If anyone has it, please share your knowledge.

Marshal Sokolovsky headed the General Staff of the Soviet Army for eight years. In 1960, he resigned and took up writing. His co-authors in general and colonel's uniforms were crowned with academic degrees and titles.

The book is amazing. Here is just a small quote from page 393:

> "In our country, the problem of destroying missiles in flight was successfully solved by Soviet science and technology...
>
> It is interesting to note that the problem of missile defense in the West is still far from being resolved."

That is, we have the final solution to the missile defense problem, while the Western fools do not!

This revelation was published in April 1963. And there was, I repeat, a previous edition. Without Khrushchev's permission, without his personal order, no general would sign such pontificating

I would have. And the Marshal of the Soviet Union, Vasily Danilovich Sokolovsky, had no business signing such nonsense. Anyone who has served in the army knows that initiative is punishable, especially in such a matter. Why would Sokolovsky be looking for adventure?

Sokolovsky did not have to chase a sensation. Circulation in the Soviet Union was determined not by demand, but by a plan. The circulation was planned even before the learned men took up the pen.

Such brazen disinformation of this level could only be released centrally and only on the orders of the country's top leadership.

7

Then the American military attaché's assistant would go to a military bookstore on the Arbat, buy books by the cent, and experts in Washington would try every word.

And then suddenly this! The Soviet Union has solved the problem of missile defense! The final solution has been found! The team of authors could not be more serious.

So what does it turn out to be?

If America attacks the Soviet Union, the Soviet Union will repel the missile attack.

The Soviet Union will strike, and America will have nothing to repel the missile attack. Oops!

And how can you not believe Marshall and his team? The Soviet Union was making great progress in space!

Congressmen, scratching their heads and cursing, allocated billions, and America began serious work on missile defense.

Our disinformation and showmanship worked for tactical success. The enemies believed Zhukov's statements about 300-400 Tatyana's per American head, believed Khrushchev's Kuzka's Mother and missile defense.

In strategic terms, Khrushchev-Zhukov-Brezhnev-Andropov's pontificating accelerated and promoted the arms race.

However, the normal economy could withstand the race, the socialist economy - No.

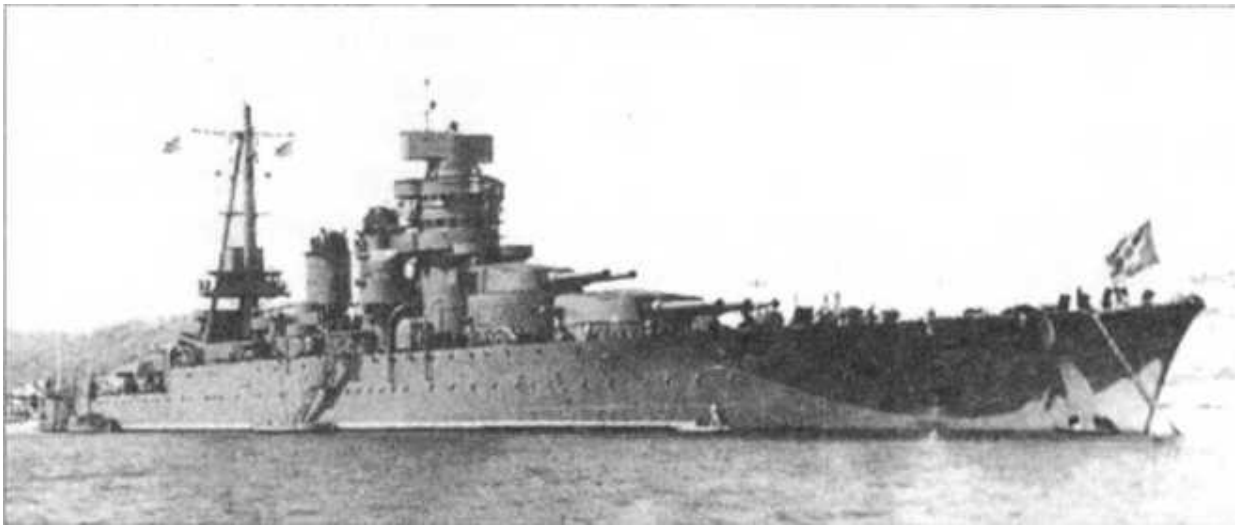
Section 22

1

On the night of October 29, 1955, in the Northern Bay of Sevastopol, the main base of the Black Sea Fleet, at 1:31 a.m., a powerful explosion occurred under the bow of the battleship Novorossiysk. A 190-square-meter ditch with a deflection of up to three meters formed along the keel on the port side. On the starboard side, in the underwater part, the explosion broke a 150-square-meter hole. The starboard hull of the battleship was pierced from the bottom up. Through means eight steel decks, including armored decks, or eight floors.

The Novorossiysk battleship was the flagship of the Black Sea Fleet and the most powerful warship of the Soviet Union.

Gross displacement is 29100 tons. Armor: deck - 111-
135 mm.
The cut is 280 mm. Towers
- 240-280 mm.
The main caliber is 10320-mm guns. Speed - 28 knots.
The crew consists of 1576 people.



flagship of the Black Sea Fleet, the battleship Novorossiysk

Immediately, the battleship was put on alert. Emergency supplies
"The Novorossiysk began a vigorous fight for the ship's life. In a few minutes, emergency parties from neighboring cruisers came to their aid. Within 30-35 minutes after the explosion, tugs hooked the wounded battleship and dragged it stern-first into the shallows.

The Black Sea Fleet Commander, Vice Admiral V. O. Parkhomenko, who arrived on the Novorossiysk, canceled the order to ground the battleship and forbade the evacuation of personnel not engaged in the fight to save the ship.

The ship was slowly sinking forward. Two hours later, Vice Admiral Parkhomenko changed his assessment of the situation and ordered the battleship to be towed to the shallows.

But it was too late.

The battleship had already stuck its bow into the ground. In addition, the left bow anchor, which had not been raised, was holding the ship firmly. The Vice Admiral returned to shore and ordered the crew to evacuate.

However, this order was too late.

At 4:13 a.m., the Novorossiysk lurched sharply to the right, slowly returned to its original position, fell to port, and at 4:15 a.m., turned upside down. Navy jokers have a special term for such a situation: turning overkeel, or keel up.

Throughout the day, the bottom of the battleship was visible right off the Sevastopol waterfront. "The Novorossiysk was sinking extremely slowly. Only at 10 pm did it completely disappear under water. During a combat alert, the personnel of the electrical and mechanical unit had to be at their combat posts, that is, inside the armored hull. The divers heard the sound of the sailors locked in the armored coffin for three more days. They managed to rescue only nine people. According to various sources, between 604 and 617 officers and sailors perished, including 58 from emergency parties from four neighboring cruisers.

As a result, the most powerful ship of the Soviet Union, the flagship of the Black Sea Fleet squadron commander, was lost in the main base of the Black Sea Fleet 130 meters from the shore, with the proper seven feet under the keel: the depth was 16 meters, the ship's draft was 10.4 meters. With such a depth, the ship's masts and superstructure should have prevented it from completely capsizing. However, the bottom of the bay is not a stronghold, but 30 meters of viscous silt.

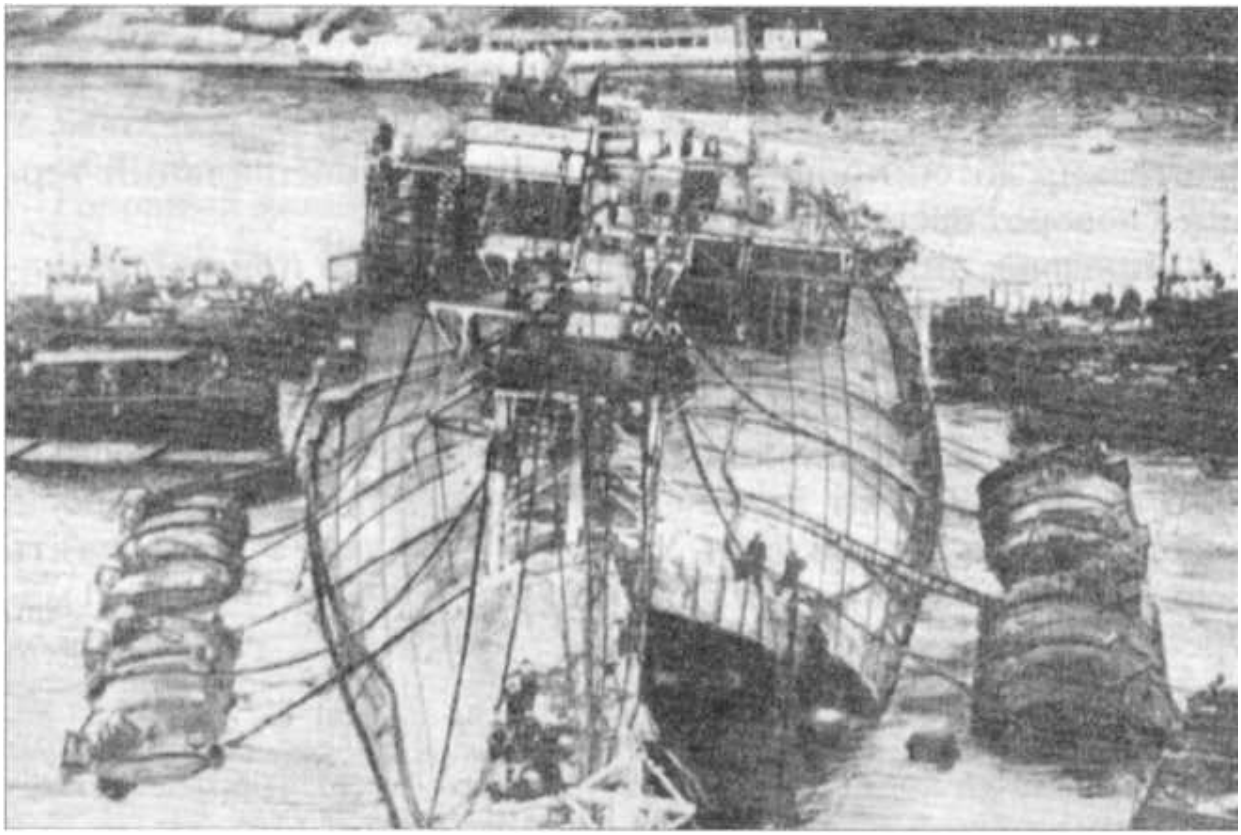
"The Novorossiysk was lost in the presence of the entire fleet command staff - the fight for the life of the squadron's flagship was led personally by the Black Sea Fleet Commander, Vice Admiral Parkhomenko.

2

The cause of the Novorossiysk's destruction has remained a mystery forever. Many versions have been put forward.

The first assumption of the Government Commission was that a munition exploded.

This version was rejected immediately after it became clear that all the shells were intact and that pieces of steel plating were bent inward, meaning that the explosion was external.



The Novorossiysk battleship after being raised

And then the experts of the Governmental Commission decided that a German mine left over from the war had exploded under the ship's hull.

This was reported to Moscow. The highest leaders of our country immediately agreed with the commission's conclusions.

Of course, no news reports ever reported the news of the battleship's destruction. Instead, the radio announcers, choking with excitement, babbled about how the miners of Donbass, having gone on duty, had produced an incredible amount of coal in excess of the plan, and the farmers on the virgin lands had harvested unprecedented crops.

The case of the Novorossiysk's destruction was classified and closed. Soon after, something incredible happened, even by the standards of our great Motherland.

> "Already in early 1956 (i.e., just three months after the disaster!), a decision was made to liquidate the materials and testimonies collected by the Government Commission."
>
> *(Dorogovoz I. The Great Fleet of the Country of the Soviets - Minsk: Harvest, 2003. - P. 245).*

I understand everything about the destruction of archives in the Totsk District Hospital after the nuclear weapons exercise. There was simply no place to store the archives. They had to be burned. What is not clear here?

However, the circumstances of the Novorossiysk battleship's destruction were investigated by a government commission headed by the First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Colonel-General of the Engineering Service Vyacheslav Aleksandrovich Malyshev, Hero of Socialist Labor, twice winner of the Stalinist First Class Prize (the awards were secret). Was there no place in the Soviet Union where the evidence collected by the commission headed by the First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Government could be stored?

By the way, a year after the destruction of the documents, Malyshev himself died before he reached the age of 55. But let's not be overly suspicious. Malyshev was the first to head the Ministry of Medium Machine Building of the USSR. For those who don't remember, medium machine building is the production of nuclear weapons. Malyshev was in charge of the development, testing, and production of nuclear charges. We have already met Viacheslav Oleksandrovych on the pages of this book. During the training exercises at the Totsk test site, he was responsible for the technical aspects of preparing for the triumphant performance of "Tatyana" in front of thousands of spectators. For his short life

Vyacheslav Oleksandrovych took a large dose, which was entirely responsible for his premature death.

But I would like to know how Malyshev himself assessed the destruction of the evidence collected under his leadership. And who could have ordered the destruction of documents collected by a commission headed by the First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers?

Malyshev was subordinate only to the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Marshal of the Soviet Union Nikolai Bulganin. Bulganin was subordinate to the First Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Nikita Khrushchev.

Only they - Malyshev, Bulganin, Khrushchev - could have ordered the destruction of the documents of the Government Commission. No one else.

It is unlikely that Malyshev himself would have decided to do this. Why would he do that? Did he collect it himself and then destroy it himself? Senior comrades would have been interested: "What did you do there, Vyacheslav Sanych?"

So, it seems to me that three statesmen got together, drank three glasses of fire water, and decided: "Fuck all this, Vyacheslav Sanych, to hell with it. Happiness is the ability to forget the bad."

3

And I really didn't want to mention some of the facts.

There was not just one explosion, there were two. With a thirty-second interval. Those who managed to escape testified to this. This was evidenced by two craters on the ground and the nature of the damage to the bottom. A single explosion could not have also made a 150-square-meter hole on the starboard side and a 190-square-meter ditch on the port side, breaking the keel.

The Malyshev Commission tried to ignore this strange circumstance. If it had, it would have been impossible to come up with an explanation.

The bays of Sevastopol were cleared repeatedly after the war, both by trawling and by detonating powerful charges. The flagship's anchorage was cleaned in a special way - divers were sent down to inspect every square meter. In the ten years after the war, the battleship Sevastopol was moored 134 times on the "battleship barrel No. 3" where Novorossiysk was destroyed, and the Novorossiysk itself was moored 10 times. And nothing happened to them.

First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers V. Malyshev

But even if there was a mine there, it would have long since failed due to corrosion and discharge of power supplies.

And that's not all. The power of the two explosions significantly exceeded the power of any mine known at the time, and even two mines combined. It is worth mentioning some points from Vyacheslav Oleksandrovych's biography Malyshev to assess the failures of the commission he headed.

Malyshev became People's Commissar, or Minister of Heavy Engineering, at the age of 36. The same year he became a member of the Communist Party's Central Committee. In 1940, Stalin appointed Malyshev to the post of Deputy Prime Minister of the Soviet Union. In May 1941, Stalin became the head of the USSR government, and Malyshev automatically became Stalin's deputy. Malyshev was 38 at the time. Throughout the war, Malyshev was Stalin's deputy in the government, and at the same time People's Commissar of the Tank Industry.

Comrade Stalin, as is known, mistakes and blunders did not forgive. Malyshev survived because he did not make mistakes.

We can judge how Malyshev managed the industry in general and the tank industry in particular by the pace of evacuation of the industry from dangerous areas in 1941 and the rapid rise in production in the Urals and Siberia, as well as the quantity and quality of Soviet tanks produced during the war. I don't take the price paid into account, because the unshakable principle was in effect: "We need a victory, one for all, we will not stand for the price."

During the war, Stalin awarded Malyshev the Gold Star Hero of Socialist Labor and the rank of Colonel General of the Engineering and Technical Service, awarded him two Stalin Prizes of the first class and the highest military orders of Suvorov and Kutuzov of the first class.

Malyshev did not fight at the front, but Stalin awarded military ranks and military orders to weapons designers and production managers on a par with generals who commanded divisions, corps, armies, and fronts.

They deserved it.

After the war, Malyshev remained Stalin's deputy in the government (with short breaks) until Stalin's death. After Stalin's death, Malyshev became the first deputy prime minister, while simultaneously (until February 28, 1955) heading the Ministry of Medium Machine Building.

Cut me into small pieces with mace knives and sprinkle me with salt, but I will never believe that such a person could draw conclusions that did not fit with the obvious facts. Vyacheslav Aleksandrovich Malyshev, knowing about the two craters on the ground, having a clear idea of the nature of the damage, not have signed an act that the cause was the explosion of a single mine, which could not have been there, which, even if it had been, could not have exploded, and even if it had exploded, it could not have sunk the entire battleship, causing huge damage on both sides. But it was the explosion of a single German mine that was named as the cause of the battleship's death. This implies that the Government Commission deliberately failed to notice inconvenient facts and falsified conclusions.

4

Anyone who has had even a cursory acquaintance with the circumstances of the death "Novorossiysk, it was clear that the official version was unfounded. Therefore, immediately after the destruction of all witness testimony, two unofficial versions were disseminated. Both of them have the same beginning - it was a deliberate sabotage. However, the endings of the two stories are different.

The first version is that the crime was committed by Italian saboteurs. The second version is that the crime was committed by British saboteurs. Let's analyze.

"The Novorossiysk is an Italian battleship, the Giulio Cesare, or Julius Caesar. After the end of World War II, the fleet of the defeated Italy was divided among the Allies. Italian naval officers allegedly could not allow the pride of the Italian fleet to plow the seas and oceans under the sickle-hammered flag. The Italian submarine saboteurs, allegedly without informing the government and the command of their fleet, carried out the sabotage on their own initiative and with their own forces.

Everything here is logical and clear. But there is a slight weakness that spoils the picture:

"Caesar was not the pride of the Italian navy.

It was laid down on June 24, 1910, and became part of the Italian fleet before the outbreak of World War I. While it was being built, the great maritime powers made a powerful technological breakthrough. By the time the new Caesar was launched, the paint had not yet dried, and the ship was already outdated. It took part in the First World War, but never met the enemy. 1928, it was transferred to training ships. Circumstances forced it to be modernized and made operational again. "The Caesar fought in World War II, but on January 5, 1942, at the height of the war, it was withdrawn from the fleet, anchored, and turned first into a training ship, and soon into a floating barracks. It was more useful that way.

In 1943, after Italy withdrew from the war, Caesar barely made it to Malta, where it was interned by the British. In Malta, it stood for five years with a minimal crew on board, without conservation, repair, or maintenance.

The Soviet Union received the Caesar in February 1949 in a deplorable state. The mechanisms were worn and rusted, and there was no technical documentation. During the six years of service in the Soviet Navy, the battleship was undergoing factory repairs seven times. The Soviet Union had no 320-mm ammunition. One ammunition package received from Italy had served its full service life and was to be disposed of.

The most important thing is that the age of battleships, like piston bombers, is over. No one in the world built more battleships.

During the division of the Italian fleet, the Americans got the battleship
"The Littorio, which was truly the pride of the Italian navy. It was superior to Caesar in terms of sailing performance (30 knots) and significantly superior in terms of armament and protection (total displacement of 45,000 tons, main caliber of 9381-mm guns). "Littorio was 26 years younger than Caesar, having entered service on May 6, 1940. The Americans recognized the Littorio as obsolete, put it on hold, and soon cut it up for metal.

The British got another pride of the Italian fleet - a battleship
"The Vittorio Venetto is of the same class as the Littorio. It entered service on August 2, 1940. The British, like the Americans, recognized the 8-year-old battleship with such characteristics as suitable only for metal.

Only the leaders of the Soviet Union, having received the rusty battleship in February 1949, did not let it go to scrap. Although Caesar entered service almost 35 years ago. Although its design did not take into account the experience of either the First or Second World Wars. Although it was twice a training ship and once a floating barracks. Instead, Caesar was cleaned and painted, renamed Novorossiysk, and declared the flagship of the Black Sea Fleet squadron. Because the socialist industry could not build anything newer and more powerful, equal to Caesar, during all the years of Soviet rule.

The Soviet Union's fleet inherited four battleships from Tsar Nicholas.

One of them suffered such a terrible fire that the towers had to be removed and installed in coastal forts to protect Kronstadt, Sevastopol, and Vladivostok, and the hull was cut up.

During the war, the second battleship was crippled by German bombers and was not restored.

The two remaining ships, Sevastopol and Oktyabrskaya Revolyutsiya, were transferred to the class of training ships on July 24, 1954, and were no longer considered battleships.

So the Novorossiysk was the last battleship of the Soviet Union.

The Italian saboteurs had no reason to sink the rusty battleship, which was already 41 years old in 1955. The Caesar did not sail the oceans, but was increasingly ill and undergoing treatment. Caesar was not worth the money spent on its permanent repairs. It was not worth the paint it was painted with. "There was no reason to sink the Novorossiysk. In a year or two, it would have been cut up for metal anyway.

"Novorossiysk became significant only because of its gruesome ending. If not for that, no one would ever remember it.

The Italian saboteurs had no motive for such a terrible crime. That's why the searchers did not pick up the Italian trail.

5

But the British had a motive. In the Soviet Union, for guns "Novorossiysk had developed atomic shells. This frightened the British. If the Novorossiysk approached the UK from the Atlantic Ocean and launched one or more nuclear strikes, the constant westerly winds would blow radiation all over the south of the UK. To prevent this, British admirals decided to blow up the battleship "Novorossiysk", but in such a way that its nuclear charges explode. So that the city of Sevastopol would be gone!

This is how one author I respect describes the actions of British saboteurs:

> "Their goal was to blow up battleships "Sevastopol" and "Novorossiysk, which were carrying 305-mm and 320-mm nuclear warheads. According to the organizers of the sabotage, this was supposed to result in a double nuclear explosion that would have destroyed all or almost all ships of the Black Sea Fleet squadron. There is nothing left of the city of Sevastopol and the port of at all not b. But with this "The Novorossiysk, which came to the regular anchorage of the Sevastopol battleship on October 28, accidentally took a double blow, and the shells with the nuclear warhead did not detonate."

The version is bold, but it also has its .

The First World War began with two pistol shots in the provincial city of Sarajevo in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. One shot at Archduke Franz Ferdinand Karl Ludwig Joseph von Habsburg, the other at his wife, Princess Hohenberg. The two shots triggered billions of shots. Great and small powers clashed in a deadly battle and tormented each other for four years. Millions died on the battlefields, and three great empires fell: Russian, German, and Austro-Hungarian; the roots of the entire European aristocracy were undermined forever; and the conditions for the outbreak of World War II were created.

The double atomic explosion with the destruction of Sevastopol, the squadron and the main base of the Black Sea Fleet could also have been a small detonator of big events. We can theoretically assume that in Italy, saboteurs decided on their own initiative and with their own forces to commit what could have been the beginning of the Third, or last, World War. However, we cannot assume this about the UK, even purely theoretically. A private initiative in a matter of such importance is completely excluded here. If something like this was ever conceived, it would be at the level of Her Majesty's government.

Did it make sense for the British government to carry out such an action? Was Novorossiysk a threat to the UK?

Let's imagine the situation: in peacetime, the Novorossiysk is hanging around in the Atlantic Ocean, and at the outbreak of war, it receives an order to fire on the British coast.

Nothing good could come of it. World War II showed that battleships without air cover are extremely vulnerable to air strikes. If the Novorossiysk had gone on combat duty in the Atlantic in peacetime, it would have been under constant surveillance. At the beginning of the war, it would have been sunk, preventing it from approaching the coast.

And how long can an outdated battleship stay far from its bases in areas dominated by enemy fleets that have aircraft carriers, bases, and coastal airfields?

That is why no one made any attempts to take this vessel to the Atlantic Ocean in peacetime.

Another scenario: the war continues, the Novorossiysk leaves the Black Sea... Excuse me, but who will allow an outdated battleship to break through the Bosporus and the Dardanelles?

If it breaks through, who will allow it to pass through the Mediterranean Sea, which is dominated by the US, UK and French navies?

If it passes through the Mediterranean, who will let it through British Gibraltar?

Who will allow this trough, having bypassed Spain and France, to come within cannon shot of the territorial waters of the Lady of the Seas?

6

Suppose that the British rulers did decide to destroy Novorossiysk, British saboteurs sank the battleship, and no one would know whose hands it was. However, could this have improved the level of security in the UK?

According to various sources, between 1195 and 1296 Tu-4 bombers were built in the Soviet Union under Stalin. Each of them could potentially be a nuclear bomb carrier.

Airplanes, as we found out, are obsolete. But why obsolete "The Novorossiysk scared the UK so much that they decided to sink it, but hundreds of Tu-4 bombers did not scare it at all?

"The Novorossiysk could not even theoretically reach Britain in the event of war. And Tu-4s could very well have suddenly appeared, even in peacetime, even during the war.

A cannon shell is subjected to tremendous dynamic and thermal loads at the moment of firing. Therefore, the walls of the projectile must be very thick and the explosive charge small compared to the weight of the itself. When creating such a projectile, it was necessary to solve a lot of technological problems. Not the least was the problem of maintaining the thermal regime of the nuclear charge at such high firing temperatures. The bomb is much easier - there are no loads, and it can be much larger in size, and therefore more powerful.

Let's assume that it was the British who sank the Novorossiysk, which could not even theoretically reach British shores during the war, and which had relatively weak nuclear charges. However, there were still hundreds of Tu-4 bombers that could have reached Britain and could have carried much more powerful bombs. Did the British rulers feel better after the sinking of the Novorossiysk?

On November 12, 1952, the Soviet Tu-95 strategic bomber made its first flight.

On August 12, 1953, the Soviet Union tested the world's first hydrogen bomb, the RDU-6s, with a TNT equivalent of 400,000 tons. The Americans detonated a ground-based stationary device that could not be

It was impossible to lift the bomb by transport, and the Soviet Union created a bomb that could be delivered to the target by a bomber.

In 1954, the Soviet Union completed testing of the Tu-16 bomber. It was adopted by the Air Force, then by the Navy. Regiments, divisions, and then entire aviation corps were armed with Tu-16 bombers. We can't reach America, but we can't envy anyone in Europe. Units and formations armed with the new jet bombers could deliver a single Tatyana or, if necessary, a whole group to any part of Europe. Both the Tu-16 and Tu-95 could lift and deliver to the UK not only the nuclear Tatiana, but also the ten times more powerful RDS-6s hydrogen bomb.

The ubiquitous James Bond should have known that in those years the Soviet Union was completing tests of the 8K51 missile, which could deliver a nuclear charge to anywhere in the UK from East Germany.

So why would the British sink the Novorossiysk if the Soviet Union had much more powerful charges and incomparably more modern carriers at the time? Were British strategists so stupid as to risk a nuclear war by destroying an outdated battleship that did not interfere with or threaten the UK, while leaving intact the more powerful and truly threatening nuclear arsenals and their delivery vehicles?

7

And who said that Novorossiysk had nuclear missiles?

The Soviet Union's first mass-produced nuclear bomb, the RDS-4 Tatiana, was a nice little thing, weighing 1,200 kilograms and measuring one and a half meters in diameter. This was acceptable for bombers and for the first Soviet intermediate-range strategic missiles. But the Navy did not have the means to deliver charges of this weight and size. The designers were tasked with creating a charge for the fleet.

A nuclear charge carrier at that time could be a torpedo or artillery shell.

It is clear that the choice fell in favor of the torpedo. It's easier with a torpedo. Here, both the volume and weight of the charge can be much larger. And there are no thermal and dynamic loads. The torpedo's screw turns, and it hits its target.

A nuclear-armed torpedo can be used by any submarine or surface ship from a cruiser to a torpedo boat. A cannonball can be used exclusively by a battleship. And only one battleship. Guns of 320 millimeters caliber were only on Caesar, but nowhere else. Was there any point in investing huge sums of money in developing nuclear missiles for Caesar if it was to be decommissioned in the near future?

Was there any point in developing 305-mm nuclear missiles for Sevastopol and the October Revolution if they were no longer in the fleet's combat inventory as of July 24, 1954?

In order to equip the fleet with nuclear weapons, it was necessary to somehow fit a nuclear charge into the diameter of a conventional naval torpedo, which is 533 millimeters. Yuliy Borysovych Khariton solved the problem. The T-5 torpedo with the RDS-9 nuclear warhead was created. And it was an outstanding technical achievement.

This charge was unsuccessfully tested on October 19, 1954. And on September 21, 1955, it was tested successfully for the first time.

If the wise British decided to ward off the threat of a nuclear strike, they should have hit, first of all, not elderly Caesar, but

on Soviet submarines and their bases in the northern seas. In the near future, these Soviet submarines were to be able to enter the Atlantic and, if necessary, strike at the United States, Britain, and their allies.

At the same time, Soviet strategic airfields should have been destroyed. So why did old Caesar pose a threat to Britain, but the outdated Tu-4 bombers with Tatyana bombs on board did not? Why did the latest Tu-16, M-4, Tu-95 not pose a threat? Why the wise British not afraid of Soviet nuclear torpedoes, the charges for which had already been tested and were to enter service in the near future? Food for thought: In the Soviet Union, for the first time, a nuclear charge was placed in a 452-mm artillery shell,

but not 305 mm or 320 mm.

The 452-mm RDS-41 nuclear missile was not intended for the fleet and did not go into production. The first successful test of the RDS-41 took place four and a half months after the Novorossiysk was lost March 16, 1956.

In 1955, there were no nuclear warheads on Caesar, and no one had developed or built them.

Moreover, there were no 305-mm nuclear missiles on the Sevastopol, because it, like the October Revolution, had been reclassified as a training ship a year earlier.

Thus, it made no sense for the British government or the British admirals to sink Caesar, let alone Sevastopol, which was no longer officially listed as a battleship.

The British saboteurs did not have a motive for the crime in the same way as the Italian saboteurs.

KEY POINT

The place of i of death "Novorossiysk" examined yetagain immediately found several rusty unexploded mines from the war. This is the proof:
"Novorossiysk exploded on an old German mine!

And yet... Already in our time, a statesman has descended to the bottom of the same Black Sea and (oh, my!) immediately found two broken Greek amphorae! Illuminated, he appeared in front of the television cameras that had been placed on the shore in advance.

What luck! And most importantly, where! Right by the shore, where divers have been diving for decades since the invention of scuba. What a lucky man!

But clever bloggers immediately noticed a strange detail. The amphorae, which had been at the bottom for several thousand years, turned out to be clean and had not grown shells. And the web unanimously ridiculed both the statesman and the PR people serving him.

Conclusion: the old rusty mines found at the Novorossiysk explosion site are not evidence. They could have been laid out on the bottom in a place convenient for searching, just like the amphorae mentioned above.

Or they didn't have to. They could have just written it in the report. Who saw those allegedly found mines?

Section 23

1

I really wish the culprits were Italian.
"macaroni men" or harmful British saboteurs.

But it is not. And I am sad. After all, I have to agree with the version that already swept through the Soviet Union in 1955:
"Novorossiysk was blown up by ours.

Many decades later, naval engineer Oleg Leonidovich Sergeev, PhD, once again examined all the circumstances of the Novorossiysk's destruction and repeated, but with mathematical calculations, what had been guessed before: the crime was the work of the KGB.

Of course, Sergeev has many enemies, many people who want to debunk him. Here is an example of how they beat not even him, but his predecessors who expressed the same opinion, albeit without such convincing evidence:

> "Such statements can only be made by people who, like children, believe in fairy tales about the 'arbitrariness' of the state security agencies that 'got out of control' of the party, about all kinds of 'conspiracies' that arose in the wilds of this agency and other similar nonsense. In real life, from the first to the last days of their existence, the Cheka-OGPU-NKVD-NKVD-MGB-KGB bodies have always been nothing more than executors of the decisions of the leaders of the Bolshevik (or Communist) Party's criminal organization. And in order to prevent individual Chekists from deciding to "flog the bastards," close supervision of the "organs" was carried out by the party security service, a top-secret organization whose very existence is still little known."

What can be about this? Nothing can be said. Everything is right here.

But we should not talk about the KGB, not about some abstract monster, but about specific people. Such an action could not have been carried out

without the permission of the Chairman of the KGB, Hero of the Soviet Union, Army General Ivan Aleksandrovich Serov. I couldn't.

But why, please tell me, would Ivan Aleksandrovich sink this old Novorossiysk, rusted from keel to toe? Why? No, he has no reason to do so!

Therefore, I sign the above quote with both hands. I did not serve in the KGB, I served in the GRU. The decision to send me to the GRU was made by my comrades in the Department of Administrative Bodies of the CPSU Central Committee, Moscow, Staraya Square, building 4. After a long conversation, a very big boss in the Central Committee hinted that he had everything under control: the Central Committee knew quite a lot about me, as well as about each of us.

All GRU officers, as well as all KGB officers, including the most important leaders, were under the control of the Communist Party. I confirm this with my own experience and example.

But this does not contradict the fact that the explosion was carried out by the KGB! It doesn't!

Let's read the objection :

> "...bodies VCHK-OGPU-NKVS-NKDB-MDB-KDB always were nothing more than executors of the decisions of the leaders of the criminal organization of the Bolshevik (or Communist) Party."

That's right! The criminal organization has made a decision. The head of the KGB, Hero of the Soviet Union, Army General Ivan Aleksandrovich Serov, has no reason to blow up Novorossiysk. There is no reason. But he is only the executor of the decisions of the leaders of the criminal organization.

He was ordered to do it, and he did it. But the leaders of the criminal organization had no shortage of reasons to blow up Novorossiysk.

Could our leaders really go to the lengths of killing our native sailors to fulfill some of their career goals?

Why not?

Less than a year later, Zhukov mutilated tens of thousands of our native Soviet soldiers to please Khrushchev and fulfill his career goals. Why shouldn't he or Serov drown just a few hundred more sailors?

Admiral of the Soviet Union Navy Nikolai Gerasimovich Kuznetsov interfered with Zhukov, interfered with Khrushchev, and should have been expelled in disgrace,

to expel him so that he would never again be able to interfere with the construction of the fleet. Instead, they should replace him with an obsequious, spineless hack in admiral's uniform.

2

It is necessary to analyze what happened to the people involved in the disaster.

The Black Sea Fleet Commander, Vice Admiral Parkhomenko, who canceled the order to put on the ground wounded battleship

"On December 8, 1955, Parkhomenko was removed from his post, demoted to rear admiral, and appointed first deputy commander of the Pacific Fleet. In 1960, Parkhomenko was reinstated to the rank of Vice Admiral. He finished his service as the head of the Navy's Emergency Rescue Service. He was in charge of the emergency rescue service of all four fleets of the Soviet Union and all flotillas. An admiral with such experience is the right person for the job.

Vice Admiral Parkhomenko took over the Black Sea Fleet in July 1955. Prior to him, Admiral S. G. Horshkov commanded the Black Sea Fleet for four years. Horshkov was then appointed First Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Navy. Soviet Navy Admiral M.G. Kuznetsov was ill for a long time, so Horshkov was essentially performing his duties.

By a strange coincidence, Admiral Gorshkov was appointed to the Government Commission to investigate the circumstances of the Novorossiysk sinking. A disaster in the Black Sea Fleet, the Government Commission includes a single sailor, the same one that the Black Sea Fleet had just surrendered. That is, the person is very interested in ensuring that the shortcomings and miscalculations of its leadership are not revealed.

Was there no admiral from another fleet?

3

No criminal case was opened regarding the sinking of the Novorossiysk battleship, and no one was tried. After all, something could have been revealed at the trial, even if it was closed.

Then the most interesting thing happened. Soviet Navy Admiral Nikolai Gerasimovich Kuznetsov was dismissed from his post, demoted to vice admiral, and expelled from the Armed Forces with the humiliating wording "without the right to work in the Navy."

No charges were brought against Kuznetsov.

Many years later, Nikolai Gerasimovich Kuznetsov wrote to the Central Committee:

> "On February 15, 1956, I was summoned by the former Minister of Defense, and within 5-7 minutes, in an extremely rude manner, the decision to demote me in military rank and dismiss me from the army without the right to reinstatement was announced. After that, no one called me for a formal dismissal. Some representative of the personnel department (even without me) brought and left my dismissal documents at my apartment... Not being aware of the reasons for my punishment, I asked to see the documents concerning me, but I never got the opportunity."

(Chervona Zvezda. - 1988. - May 21)

Admiral of the Soviet Union Navy M. Kuznetsov

Kuznetsov continues:

> "They tried to literally crush me. Without summoning me to the country's leadership, without explanation and even without presenting my dismissal documents, I was excommunicated from the Navy. Marshal Zhukov announced in a rude manner typical of him that I had been removed from my post and demoted to vice admiral. When I asked him on what grounds and why this was done without calling me, he smiled and said that it was not necessary at all."
>
> *(Chervona Zvezda. - 1999. - July 24)*

In 1939, Nikolai Gerasimovich Kuznetsov was appointed People's Commissar of the Navy. At that time, Zhukov was just a commander. Kuznetsov entered the war as People's Commissar of the Navy and ended the war in the same position. In our history, only three people have held the title of Admiral of the Soviet Union Navy. Kuznetsov was the first of them. Admiral of the Soviet Union Navy is a complete analogy to the army rank of Marshal of the Soviet Union.

However, it is simply indecent to compare Kuznetsov and Zhukov. Kuznetsov was an educated man. He graduated from the Naval School and the Naval Academy. Suffice it to say that Nikolai Gerasimovich Kuznetsov was fluent in English, German, French, and Spanish.

Zhukov's education was lower. He wrote in his autobiography of June 13, 1938, that he had a lower education, and studied for three years at a parochial school. Then cavalry courses, where Zhukov was taught how to swing a saber.

Zhukov expelled Kuznetsov, who was his equal in military rank, from the Armed Forces. Let everyone imagine for themselves what is hidden under the words "in an extremely rude manner". Zhukov expelled Kuznetsov, demoting him by three ranks. While Zhukov spent "5-7 minutes" expel the Soviet Union's Navy Admiral from the Armed Forces, he did not waste so much time deciding the fate of some major generals and rear admirals.

4

The Black Sea Fleet Commander, Vice Admiral Parkhomenko, who was on board the Novorossiysk and led the rescue efforts, was demoted by one step, but not expelled, and was reinstated in rank four years later.

Soviet Navy Commander-in-Chief Admiral Kuznetsov, who was not present at the scene of the tragedy and had been absent for several months due to illness, was demoted three steps and dismissed in disgrace. It was like being promoted from Marshal of the Soviet Union to Lieutenant General.

But the most interesting is the fate of Horshkov. He commanded the Black Sea Fleet for four years 1955. If the death of

"The Novorossiysk is to blame for a German mine that was not defused at the anchorage of the fleet's flagship, so who is to blame but Black Sea Fleet Commander Gorshkov?

Navy Commander-in-Chief S. Gorshkov.

If the shoulder straps of Soviet Navy Admiral Kuznetsov, who had not been acting as Navy Chief for several months, were removed, what should be done with Admiral Horshkov, who had been performing these duties?

That's right! A potluck promotion!

Gorshkov was the first deputy commander-in-chief of the Navy for several months, and after Kuznetsov's expulsion he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Navy and Deputy Minister of Defense of the USSR, i.e. Zhukov.

Gorshkov held this position for thirty years without a few days.

Horshkov did not become a hero during the war, but in peacetime, like Marshal Grechko, he would become twice a Hero of the Soviet Union.

Under his leadership, a gigantic fleet will be built that has nowhere to base and repair.

Under his leadership, a diverse fleet will be built. The Americans created one good cruiser and put it into production: easy to repair, easy to provide spare parts, easy to train crews. Gorshkov's fleet was simultaneously receiving cruisers of four different types.

The American ships were armed with ten different types of missiles. And we had three times as many!

During Gorshkov's reign, the navy received forty-five different types of ships.

Gorshkov is no less guilty of the catastrophe of the Soviet Union than Zhukov himself.

KEY POINT

The refusal to initiate criminal proceedings over the terrible catastrophe and the destruction of the documents of the Government Commission are proof of the guilt of Khrushchev and his gang. There is no need to look for any other arguments.

I am deliberately not going into the details of the Novorossiysk's demise, and I am not getting into any arguments on this topic. I'm only focusing the attention of the esteemed public on the strange rise of the madman Gorshkov and the equally strange fall of Kuznetsov.

Why was Kuznetsov, who was absent, treated so harshly, when Gorshkov, who was present, was given an incredible promotion for the same cases?

And for Kuznetsov's cautiously speaking out against Zhukov in February 1955. And Gorshkov always and everywhere did only what the leadership needed.

Section 24

1

Zhukov was carried away.

Zhukov was preparing to break the enemy's defense not only in Central Europe but also in Moscow. Within the Garden Ring.

Until the last and decisive battle for the Kremlin broke out, Zhukov was vigorously strengthening his positions, persistently, if not brazenly, expanding the boundaries of his power. He attacked on many fronts at once.

On the first front, the goal of the offensive is to withdraw the Border Troops from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and subordinate them to the Ministry of Defense, i.e., to put them under Zhukov's control.

At all times, the Border Troops have been a part of the State Security bodies. The Border Troops are primarily tasked with preventing spies, saboteurs, bandits, smugglers and other undesirables from entering the country.

People are running away from socialism. That is why the Border Troops are primarily tasked with keeping those trying to escape out of the country. This is why the Soviet Union had the most powerful Border Troops in the world, armed with warships, airplanes, helicopters, tanks, armored personnel carriers, artillery, and mortars.

If they object that we have the longest border in the world, which is why the border troops are so powerful, we will reject their objections. Lenin called Russia the "prison of nations." However, under Tsar Nicholas, the length of the border was roughly the same, but the border was guarded by a separate corps of border guards. The maximum number of this corps, 36,709 people, was in 1910. If you place these people along the sea and land borders, you get a rather thin chain. If you remember that these people are not on duty 24 hours a day, if you remember that not all of them are on guard at the border, some of them have to cook porridge, some have to change horseshoes, some have to be in command, then you get a very pathetic picture.

The Separate Border Guard Corps was created by Alexander III in 1893. There was no such thing before.

2

Let's turn to Russian and Soviet literature. In Soviet literature, we find many images of courageous border guards. And how many films were made about the "border guards"? "The Border on the Lock",
"Outpost in the Mountains", "Blue Arrow", "Ordered to be taken alive", "Here is the border"...

Legendary border guard Karatsupa with Indus (Ingus)

However, the main characters are not on the pages of a book or on the screen. The main characters are in real life. Just look at Nikita Fedorovich Karatsupa and his dog Indus (Indus was not alone. There were seven of them. One Hindu died in clashes with the enemy, but Karatsupa

was the name of his new assistant. After friendly relations with India were established, the names of the heroic dogs in publications about Karatsupa's exploits were changed. They were Hindus - they became Ingus).

During his twenty years of service on the border, Karatsupa killed 129 and detained 338 border crossers. When we were all informed of such figures, it was understood that the violators were spies and saboteurs trying to enter our country through animal trails to set fire to crops, pour poison into wells, and blow up bridges and tunnels. And somehow it never occurred to me that the offenders were, first of all, our own Soviet people who were trying to escape the country.

For us, Soviet people, Karatsupa was a model and a romantic hero like d'Artagnan.

But in Russia, in the same "prison of nations," there was no Karatsupa. Neither in real life nor in literature. In the great Russian literature, we will not find references to control and tracking strips, to faithful border dogs, to treacherous violators, and to valiant border defenders.

Under Alexander and Nikolai, it was customary to say that if you don't like the "prison of the peoples," you can go anywhere you want, even to Switzerland, like Comrade Lenin, or to America, like Comrades Trotsky, Bukharin, and Gorky.

Having seized power over the "prison of nations," Lenin increased the number of border guards several times. It was during Lenin's time that the haughty phrase "the border is locked!" entered the Russian language. It was under his rule that the border was truly made impassable.

But this is not even the main thing. Under Oleksandr and Mykola, the border guards were subordinated to the Ministry of Finance. Their main task was to protect the country's economic interests. As long as the Civil War was going on, there were no borders, only fronts. In 1920, when the Civil War had almost subsided, the Border Troops were subordinated to the Special Department of the Cheka. Since then, the border guards have always been part of the punitive system of the dictatorship of the proletariat - the Cheka-ODPU-NKVD-NKGB-MGB-MIA-KGB.

The army is not inherent in the task of customs control at the borders.

Armies	are not	inherent	tasks	of fighting
	against	spies	and smugglers.	

The army is not tasked with stopping citizens from fleeing their own country.

However, Zhukov, who took over as Minister of Defense in February 1955, summoned his first deputy, Chief of the General Staff Marshal Sokolovsky, and ordered him to prepare a memo to the Central Committee of the CPSU demanding that the Border Troops be transferred the Ministry of Defense.

3

There was another armed force in the Soviet Union that was not subordinated to the Ministry of Defense: the Internal Troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. There is no analog to the Internal Troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in any normal country in the world. Such troops were created only where a happy life was built on our model.

The main task of the Internal Troops is to suppress popular uprisings, fight partisans, guard prisons, camps, and large communist buildings built by prisoners, transport them across the country, and search for fugitives.

In addition, the Internal Troops guard the most important state facilities: government offices, the most powerful power plants, strategic stockpile storage facilities, nuclear weapons plants and delivery vehicles, and transportation facilities.

All of these functions, especially the prison and rotisserie functions, are alien to the army.

The army cannot catch criminals in the nooks and crannies, cannot search and escort them, cannot break up fights and calm down the rabid zones. It cannot! This is not the army's profile! This is not what the army was created for!

The Internal Troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs had another function, which was not enshrined in any decrees, laws, statutes, or resolutions, and was not proclaimed anywhere or in any way. And this function was to be a counterweight to the Soviet Army.

There is a KGB regiment in the Kremlin.

In and around Moscow, the Dzerzhinsky Separate Motorized Rifle Division of the Internal Troops of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The division is very unusual. At the time Zhukov became Minister of Defense, the Dzerzhinsky Division had five motorized rifle regiments and eleven separate battalions. There were 18,000 soldiers and officers in the division. It was manned to the last man. The personnel is selected. The division has floating tanks, artillery, and armored personnel carriers.

The task of the Dzerzhinsky Division was to protect the leaders and maintain order in Moscow. The system of protecting the leaders was duplicated. The KGB is responsible protecting the Kremlin and the bodyguards themselves, while suppressing popular unrest and protecting against crowds is the job of the Dzerzhinsky Separate Motorized Rifle Division of the Internal Troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

If the KGB plots a coup, the Interior Ministry will defend the leaders. And if the Interior Ministry decides to change the government, the KGB will protect the leaders.

If the Soviet Army rebelled against the proletarian government, the KGB and the Ministry of Internal Affairs would present a united front. That is why the Dzerzhynsky Separate Motorized Infantry Division of Special Purpose was armed with tanks, armored personnel carriers, and artillery.

In addition to the Dzerzhinsky Separate Motorized Rifle Division, the Internal Troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs included dozens of divisions, brigades, and separate regiments. The divisions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs were located in all major cities: Leningrad, Minsk, Tbilisi, Tashkent, Kuibyshev, Sverdlovsk, Khabarovsk, Baku, Krasnoyarsk, Gorky, Irkutsk, and others.

The Internal Troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs are divisions, brigades, regiments, educational institutions, hundreds of thousands of people armed, wearing boots and shoulder straps. But all this enormous force was not under Zhukov's control. Could he put up with such an outrage?

I couldn't.

And he did not accept it. He summoned the Chief of the General Staff, Marshal Sokolovsky, and ordered him to write another memo to the Central Committee demanding that the Internal Troops be withdrawn from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and subordinated to the Ministry of Defense.

This meant that Zhukov decided to put the Ministry of Defense on the shoulders of the chopper service.

4

Major Sergei Markov was Zhukov's chief of security. His memoirs were published in the book Marshal of Victory by Era and Ella Zhukov (Voenizdat, 1996).

This is what we read on pages 268-269:

> "In 1955, during Marshal Zhukov's trip to the Northern Fleet, when he was traveling by car, he was taken along an uncoordinated route-they wanted to shorten the way. As a result, the motorcade ended up in the border zone, with a border guard on duty at the barrier. The guard introduced himself to the marshal: "I am the guard of the post, border guard so-and-so". Zhukov told him: "Open the barrier for passage." The guard replied: "I have no right, the passage is prohibited". Then the marshal said: "Call your superior". The guard explained that the phone was 500 meters away, and he had no right to leave his post. Zhukov asked the guard what his actions would be if they did pass. The guard said: "I will be forced to use my weapon: the first shot in the air is a warning shot, and the next one is at the wheels of the car."
>
> After that, Zhukov immediately thanked the guard for his excellent service, and gave the escort a corresponding instruction. The motorcade of vehicles departed to continue to the military base along the previously established route.
>
> Some time later, the Ministry of Defense sent an order from the USSR Minister of Defense signed by Zhukov to the Northern Border District's office, which recognized the excellent service in protecting the state borders and expressed gratitude to the guard for his competent and decisive actions."

The case is striking. Everything about this passage is surprising. First of all, the fact that it was published by Voenizdat. Didn't the people who let it go to print

realized that this was not a praise of Zhukov, but an expose?

5

A sentinel is an inviolable person. Immunity consists in: special protection by law of his/her rights and personal dignity; subordination to of the guard strictly limited circle of persons: chief of the guard, assistant chief of the guard, his scout;

the obligation of all persons to unquestioningly comply with the requirements of the guard due to his service;

y providing him the right use weapons y cases provided for in the Charter.

These are the minted lines of the Charter. It was established by Peter the Great. A sentry at the post is not subject to officers, generals, or

Not Zhukov, not Khrushchev.

But there was a slob at the post. The guard had no right to let anyone near his post. The sentry had no right to introduce himself to Zhukov. The sentry had no right to answer questions from Zhukov. This was strictly forbidden. "Stop, who's coming?", "Stop, get back!" "Stop, I'll shoot!" A warning shot in the air, then a shot at the offender.

And why did the guard decide to shoot at the wheels in case of a violation, if the Statute requires that all violators be taken down after a warning shot?

The most incomprehensible behavior is that of Zhukov. At the time of this idiotic incident, he had already served in the army for four decades. Including the Imperial Army. Didn't he learn the fundamentals of service there? Doesn't Zhukov see that he is facing a neglectful and malicious violator of the Charter?

But Zhukov himself is handsome. Doesn't he know that you can't talk to a guard? If you want to talk to him, call the head of the guard, the head of the guard will remove the guard from his post, and then you can talk to him.

If you want to drive through the barrier, you have to solve the issue not with the guard, but with the chief of the guard.

And Zhukov's orders sound even stranger: "Open the barrier for passage", "Call your superior". I insist: the sentry is subordinate only to the chief of the guard, the assistant chief of the guard and his scout. Here the emphasis is on the word
"his own". There are several scouts in the guard, but only the scout who is responsible for the protection and defense of the facility can be posted and removed from the post.

No one other than these three people has the right to order the guard.
Did Zhukov not know this?

All of Zhukov's actions are illegal. A charter is a law approved by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. Zhukov publicly violated the fundamental laws of military service.

There could be only two reasons for this.

Zhukov was a completely illiterate person, even in the most fundamental matters of military service.

Zhukov was deliberately demonstrating to his entourage that he had no intention of obeying the laws of the country.

6

And this is where the fun begins:

> Zhukov immediately thanked the guard for his excellent performance.

How dare he? And who is he anyway? Zhukov is the Minister of Defense. The border troops are not subordinate to the Ministry of Defense. Any chief has the right to reward and punish only those who are subordinate to him.

Zhukov announced his gratitude to the Border Troops private, but this is nothing more than an official statement that the Border Troops are under Zhukov's command.

And the guard should have been outraged: don't pretend to be the boss, I don't need your gratitude, I'm not in your command.

But the matter did not end there. Let's read the amazing passage again:

> "After some time, the Ministry of Defense sent an order from the USSR Minister of Defense signed by Zhukov to the Northern Border District, which noted the excellent service in protecting the state borders and expressed gratitude to the guard for his competent and decisive actions."

Let's think about it: the entire border is divided into ten districts. Zhukov sent a written order to one these districts. repeat the question: who is he to send orders to the Border Troops? The most piquant thing is that Zhukov did not send the order to the head of the Main Directorate of the Border Troops, Major General Pavel Ivanovich Zyryanov, but directly to the Northern Border District, ignoring the Border Troops' command.

Let's imagine that someone from outside, for example, from the Ministry of Agriculture, to whom the Soviet Army was not subordinate, sent an order to the commander of, for example, the Carpathian Military

District, Marshal of the Soviet Union Konev. Rest assured that Konev would not have tolerated this. And neither would Zhukov.

It doesn't matter what the order is about. What matters is that someone else is trying to command someone else's troops.

7

Zhukov sent orders not only to the the troops, which to him were not subordinate to him. He gave orders to Serov himself.

As soon as Zhukov became Minister of Defense, the head of the KGB, his old friend Ivan Serov, sent him five files of denunciations.

Major Markov, Zhukov's chief of security, continues the story on the same page:

> "When Zhukov got acquainted with the dossier, Serov ordered the dismissal of the former head of security during the war, M. Kh. Bedov, his deputy, M. M. Ageev, the former commandant of the dacha, B. S. Yermishin, and some other officers who, as it turned out, were involved in falsified denunciations against Zhukov."

Zhukov - Minister of Defense. Serov - Chairman of the KGB.

The KGB is not subordinate to the Ministry of Defense. So why could this have happened: Serov's team was gone!

Zhukov could have asked: "Banya, you're like an old friend of mine, you're going to pound these bastards. But Zhukov is in charge. And why should he be in charge? The entire bodyguard of the leaders is from the KGB. The job of a KGB officer is to snitch. He's going to drive these Serovs out, but won't the new ones be snitches?

Ivan Aleksandrovich Serov liked to play dumb. But he was not so simple that he would give Zhukov all the material collected on him and reveal all his snitches in the circle of the Minister of Defense.

Section 25

1

Zhukov insisted on transferring the KGB and the Ministry of Internal Affairs under the control of the Ministry of Defense. Khrushchev resisted, knowing full well that if all the armed men in the country were placed under Zhukov's control, the country's top leadership would be completely defenseless.

Meanwhile, Zhukov was destroying the foundations of the state system on another front. From its earliest days, the Red Army was under the full control of the Communist Party. The Communist Party kept the Red Army, which after the war became the Soviet Army, on two leashes, like a predatory animal being held on both sides.

On the one hand, there are the Special Departments. On the other hand, there are the commissioners.

Special departments of the NK-DB recruited informers at all levels of the military hierarchy. The higher the level, the denser the network. High-ranking commanders were surrounded by state security informers. They could be aides, bodyguards, drivers, ciphers, radio operators, cooks, guards, clerks, draftsmen, combat and training girlfriends.

In addition to secret surveillance by the NK-DB, there was also open surveillance.

From the time the first Red Army units were created, the Communist Party assigned a supervisor to every commander from company level up. The supervisor was called a commissar.

The commissars were sung by all Soviet literature and cinema: "Chapaev", "Red Square", "Kotovsky", "An optimistic tragedy". Always and everywhere, the commissar guided the commander on the path of truth with wise advice.

In reality, it was different. First of all, because the commissar was completely illiterate in military matters. How could an illiterate person control a literate one?

The commander gave the order, but without the signature of the supervisor, the order was invalid. An attempt to lead the troops without asking for permission from the commissars was regarded as treason and mutiny. With all its consequences. The commissioner had unlimited power. He could remove a commander from office and arrest him. Commissioners did not obey commanders. They were subordinate only to higher commissioners.

There has never been anything like this in any country in the world. If a commander is fighting for his homeland, for his people, why put a freeloading commissar with a revolver behind him?

But the point is that the Red Army fought not for its homeland or its people, but for the World Revolution against its people. The name of this army reflected neither its nationality nor its territoriality. It was Red! And that was all.

The Red Army was created to conquer its own and all surrounding peoples. Therefore, it was permeated from the bottom up with commissar control.

2

The higher the rank of the commander, the stricter the control over him. At the level of armies and fronts, each commander had not one, but two or three supervisors behind him. At this level, leadership was exercised by bodies called military councils. The Military Council of an army or front consisted of the commander and several so-called Chvs (members of the Military Council).

These members were party officials of very high rank. In the Civil War, for example, Comrade Stalin, who was one of the ten most influential leaders in the country, also served as a member of the Military Council of the Western, Southern, and Southwestern Fronts.

In the Second World War, members of the military councils of armies, flotillas, fronts, and fleets, i.e. supervisors, were first secretaries of regional committees such as Brezhnev, members of the Central Committee such as Bulganin and Mekhlis, and even members of the Politburo such as Khrushchev and Zhdanov.

3

After the Civil War, unity of command was gradually introduced.

The commander was given the right to give orders without the supervisor's signature. But this did not mean a lack of control. The commissioners turned into pompolitans - political assistants. The pompolit was close by and reported all the commander's actions to the top through his line of command.

In 1937, Stalin uncovered a conspiracy in the Red Army, and the command staff had to be purged of enemies of the people, various Tukhachevs and Yakirs, Dybenko and Blukhers. And to prevent the commanders from rebelling, on May 10, 1937, all the pompolitans were suddenly turned into commissars with all the draconian powers.

In 1940, Stalin, having purged the Red Army, abolished the dual power.
Now the commissars have turned into deputy policemen rather than pompolitans.

The war came. It had an unfavorable start for the Red Army, to put it mildly. Therefore, in 1941, deputy policemen became commissars again. Commanders had no right to give any orders without the approval of their personal supervisors.

As soon as the Red Army went on the offensive, the commissars were again turned into deputy policemen.

And at the level of armies, flotillas, fleets, fronts, military districts, and groups of troops, both in peacetime and wartime, there were military councils - the commander and the military authorities that supervised him.

After taking the post of Minister of Defense, Zhukov decided to destroy this entire system. Why should the Soviet Army be under anyone's control if there is a Minister of Defense, Marshal Zhukov of the Soviet Union!

The CPSU Central Committee received Zhukov's proposals to reform military councils, to transform them from controlling to advisory bodies, and to approve their composition not by decisions of the CPSU Central Committee but by orders of the Minister of Defense (Zhukov Georgii. Transcript of the October (1957) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and other documents: International Foundation "Democracy", 2001. - P. 445).

There were many proposals, but the essence was the same: to remove the party collar from the throat of the Soviet Army. That would have been fine. But then control of the Soviet Army would have been completely in Zhukov's hands.

4

Zhukov did not expect a positive response to his requests. He began to reduce the number of party supervisors by his orders.

> "The Minister of Defense has single-handedly abolished the nomenclature positions of the Central Committee of the Deputy Commander for Political Affairs of the Submarine Forces and the Fleet Squadron."
>
> *(Zhukov, Georgy. Transcript of the October (1957) Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and other documents. M: International Foundation "Democracy", 2001. - P. 328)*

To plunge into the depths of what happened, it is worth recalling that the Communist Party seized power in the vast Russian Empire in October 1917.

And she did not share this power with anyone.

The communists ruthlessly massacred by the millions all those who coveted and encroached on that power. They exterminated the nobility, merchants, and officers, eliminated the kulaks as a class, and hit the intelligentsia, clergy, Cossacks, and then the peasantry.

Power was exercised by appointing and removing bosses of all ranks. "Personnel decides everything," as Comrade Stalin once expressed the essence of the system.

Here, for example, is the most ordinary packed district center. The great and powerful, true and free Russian language has the widest range. And if there is a Silver Forest, how can you do without Khokhotuy, Propoysk and Prokhvostin, without Kholuy in the Ivanovo region and without Musorka in the Kuibyshev region?

So, there is a party committee sitting in the same trash can. At the head of the committee is the first secretary. And that secretary has a list of positions that can be appointed only by the committee's decision: director of a bathhouse, head of a collective farm, head of a small factory, all of these positions are nomenclature of the district committee. First, the committee, or rather its

The first secretary secretly decides who will be the head of the Krasnyi Svinopas collective farm and who will be the head of the artel Daramna Trud, and then the elections are organized in the collective farm and artel. But they were organized in such a way that the people's choice coincided exactly with the previous secret election of the Communist Party. The collective farmers can choose their own chairman by their free will, but they can only choose someone who is on the committee's list, who has already been secretly elected by the committee, and who has been planned and approved.

The nomenclature is also a list of trusted individuals who have proven their loyalty to the great ideas of the Communist Party through their behavior, work, and their entire lives.

Neither the district committee nor its first secretary have the right to appoint those they like. There is a list approved at the top, and there are personal files of those who are on it, so only from this circle should you choose directors, chiefs, and chairmen.

But only of the lowest rank.

The district committee does not have the power to appoint the editor of the district newspaper, the head of the district police department, or the head of the district trade union council. These guys are the nomenclature of the higher regional committee. Only there can they decide which of them can be promoted and which of them needs to be demoted urgently.

A district prosecutor, a judge, and the first secretary of the district committee himself are not nomenclature of the regional committee, but of the higher republican committee or even higher - the Central Committee.

Only there, at the very top, is the delicate issue of recruitment and placement of personnel resolved. They determine who will be the first secretary of the regional committee on Sakhalin, who will represent the interests of the Soviet Union in Honduras, who will fill people's tanks with religious opium, who will command an air division in the Budapest area, and who will command a rifle corps in the Khasan district of Primorsky Krai.

The Central Committee decides who will lead ideology and politics, who will command the army, navy, science, industry, agriculture, culture, religion, who will judge, who will imprison, who will exterminate undesirables.

A creative union of artists or composers, journalists, architects or writers is a purely voluntary association of free creative individuals. And they themselves choose the head of their union

at a stormy congress. But they elect, unbeknownst to them, only and exclusively those who have already been secretly selected and approved by the CP Central Committee.

All foreign intelligence officers, all directors of large factories, all hierarchs of the Orthodox Church, all generals are the nomenclature of the Central Committee. Only the Communist Party Central Committee has the right to decide the fate of each of them. Without a decision of the Central Committee, none of them can be demoted, promoted, or transferred from one position to another, even if it is equivalent.

By eliminating the positions of party supervisors, albeit not of the highest rank, who were nevertheless part of the Central Committee nomenclature, Zhukov encroached on the undivided power of the Communist Party and got out of its control.

Recently, I heard two experts argue about whether Zhukov was preparing a power grab or not.

There is no need to argue about this. Zhukov was not just preparing, he was already carrying out a creeping coup in the country. The ruling force of the Soviet Union was the Communist Party. Zhukov was removing the Soviet Army from the control of the ruling party, openly disobeying its decisions, destroying the control structures it had created, and violating the procedures it had established.

5

In October 1952, the 19th Congress of the CPSU adopted a new Statute, according to which every communist had the right to appeal to any party authority, up to the Central Committee. Many officers were communists (otherwise they were not allowed to go up). Almost all generals were communists. Zhukov introduced his own procedures in the Soviet Army. Contrary to the CPSU Statute, he forbade army and navy communists to appeal to the CPSU Central Committee. From that time on, the rights guaranteed by the CPSU Charter did not apply to army and navy communists (Zhukov Georgy. Transcript of October 1957 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and other documents.
- Moscow: International Foundation Democracy, 2001. - P. 446).

This was not enough. Zhukov forbade the Chief of the Main Political Department of the Soviet Army, Colonel-General A. S. Zheltov, to inform the Central Committee about everything that was happening in the Armed Forces (Zhukov Georgy. Transcript of the October (1957) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and other documents. - Moscow: International Foundation "Democracy", 2001. - P. 244).

The Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army is the supreme political supervisor. The Main Political Directorate is also one of the departments of the Central Committee.

The following happened: Zhukov forbade one of the departments of the Central Committee to perform its control functions. In this way, Zhukov withdrew one of the Central Committee's departments from the subordination of Comrade Khrushchev, First Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

6

Zhukov was clearing space for his men.

To do this, it was necessary to expel from the Soviet Army those who were not ready to blindly, without hesitation, follow Zhukov's orders.

On March 15, 1956, the First Deputy Minister of Defense of the USSR, Marshal of the Soviet Union Oleksandr Vasilevsky, resigned.

It is enough to look at the dates of Vasilevsky's appointment to new positions and the dates of his military ranks to draw certain conclusions.

As of June 22, 1941, Vasilevsky was a major general, deputy head of the Operations Department of the General Staff. July 1941 was a month of terrible defeats for the Red Army, but on August 1, 1941, Stalin appointed Vasilevsky to the key position of Chief of the Operations Department of the General Staff.

In mid-October 1941, advanced detachments of German troops suddenly broke through to the outskirts of Moscow. They were held back by cadets from military schools and untrained militias unfit for military service who were hurriedly thrown into battle. Moscow could have fallen at any moment. On October 16, 1941, a terrible panic broke out in Moscow, accompanied by the flight of leaders of large and small ranks. The panic was suppressed, and Moscow was defended. On October 28, 1941, Stalin promoted Vasilevsky to the rank of lieutenant general.

Marshal O.M. Vasilevsky at the emergency situation (1944)

May 1942 was a month of even more terrible defeats for the Red Army.

Attempts to break the siege of Leningrad ended in disaster.

The Red Army's grand offensive on the southern flank resulted in the encirclement of Red Army troops in the Kharkiv area.

Crimean front was preparing an offensive, but Manstein with a sudden preemptive strike crushed it, crumpled it, and threw it into the sea.

21 May 1942 of the year Stalin assigns Vasilevsky the rank of colonel general.

In June 1942, German troops rapidly developed their offensive, rushing to Stalingrad, that is, to the Volga, the oil aorta of the Soviet Union, and to the North Caucasus, to the oil fields. Now not only Moscow, but the entire Soviet Union is on the verge of collapse. At this time, Stalin appointed Colonel-General Vasilevsky as Chief of the General Staff.

It's a strange situation: terrible disasters, Stalin decisively removes and mercilessly punishes his generals and marshals, while Vasilevsky is rising unstoppably. What does this indicate?

These are belated admissions by Stalin after each defeat: we acted as we thought we should, but we should have done what Vasilevsky suggested.

Marshal Vasilevsky inspects the guns (1945)

During the counteroffensive in the Stalingrad area, Colonel-General Vasilevsky coordinated the actions of the Don and Stalingrad fronts. On January 18, 1943, Stalin promoted him to the rank of Army General, and 29 days later he was promoted to Marshal of the Soviet Union.

After the war, in 1949, Stalin appointed Vasilevsky Minister of the Armed Forces (the Ministry of Defense changed its name several times, but remained the same Ministry of Defense).

Vasilevsky clearly did not participate in the plot against Stalin. This is clear from the fact that immediately after Stalin's death, during the division of

He was promoted to the position of First Deputy Minister of Defense.

Zhukov, on the other hand, was returned from exile and promoted to the post of First Deputy Minister of Defense, and then to the post of Minister.

Zhukov i Vasilevsky - are related.The son of Vasilevsky's son Yuri is married to Eri Zhukova. But something strange is happening.

March 1956 - Vasilevsky and Zhukov are traveling in a car.

Zhukov: "Don't you think, Sashko, that you need to study the history of the war?"

Vasilevsky: "What do you mean by that? To understand that it's time to leave?"

Zhukov: "Yes. We discussed this issue, and Khrushchev insists on your resignation."

This dialog was published in journal Znamya (1988. -№ 5 - P. 95).

Zhukov's despicable behavior is noteworthy.

No one had any complaints against Marshal Vasilevsky. To nitpick There is no need . He is one of the most talented military leaders of the 20th century.

Zhukov rudely hints to Vasilevsky that he should voluntarily resign. At the same time, Zhukov blames Khrushchev: "It was not my initiative - Khrushchev insisted."

But if Khrushchev "insists," why does Zhukov play the role of Khrushchev's lackey? Why does he pass on his master's whims to his comrade-in-arms?

If Khrushchev "insists," then let him tell Vasilevsky himself. And the Minister of Defense of the USSR, Marshal Zhukov, should come to the defense of his old comrade-in-arms: Why, Nikita Sergeevich, should Vasilevsky leave? Do we have any commanders of Vasilevsky's talent and experience?

But for some reason, Khrushchev "insists" on the displacement, but in fact Vasilevsky is pushed out of the Soviet Army by Zhukov.

Alexander Mikhailovich Vasilevsky did not argue, wrote a report and left.

He didn't even slam the door.

Section 26

1

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union was sinking deeper and deeper into the mire of a permanent economic crisis.

Why?

It was because we had socialism. Private ownership of the means of production was eliminated. All means of production passed into the hands of the people.

However, the entire nation cannot manage industry, transportation, agriculture, and science, so the economy was managed by the state.

For effective management, you need to know what each ministry, each main department, design bureau, factory, mine, and collective farm should do.

To manage the economy on a scientific basis, the Central Statistical Office (CSO) was created. Its task is to collect all the information about what we have and what we lack.

On the basis of the information collected, the State Planning Committee of the Council of Ministers of the USSR (Gosplan) gave instructions on what, when, to whom, and in what quantities should be produced. At all times, the Gosplan was headed by leaders of very high rank - members of the Central Committee, candidates for the Politburo of the Central Committee, and even members of the Politburo of the Central Committee. Among them were Kuibyshev, Voznesensky, Saburov, and Kosygin.

A monumental building was constructed for the State Planning Committee, which now houses the State Duma of the Russian Federation. The Gosplan had not only planning but also controlling functions, not only giving instructions but also checking their implementation. Many state committees and planning institutions were subordinated to the Gosplan.

Capitalists have anarchy of production. We

have a scientific approach.

But for some reason they had everything, while we had a total lack of everything.

2

Let's look at the difference in the organization of production using a simple example.

Let's say a capitalist produces wooden boxes. His Majesty the Consumer comes to the store and decides whether to buy or not.

There is a direct link between the producer and the consumer. Every day, every hour and every minute, the consumer controls the assortment, quality and sets prices: this box is poorly made, this one is too expensive, this one is not the right size. The manufacturer has to react instantly to please the consumer. The manufacturer who makes a mistake, who fails to catch the consumer's whim, who fails to please him with the assortment, price, or quality, goes out of business. Only the one who managed to guess the consumer's desire on time, with high quality and at the lowest price to satisfy his desire survives.

This is the pursuit of cash, capitalist competition, anarchy of production. It is disgusting.

In our country, everything is organized according to science.

Let's take the same wooden boxes. The Central Statistical Office collected all the necessary data for the country and passed it on to the State Planning Committee. The State Planning Committee decided to produce so many million boxes. The relevant ministry was instructed to distribute it among the main departments and factories. The industry complies with the order and produces millions of boxes of the minimum size. This is how the instructions of the planning and controlling authorities are fulfilled as quickly as possible. This saves material and labor.

The problem is that no one needs such boxes.

And then the State Planning Committee gives an order to produce not so many million boxes, but boxes with a total volume of so many million cubic meters. Great! The industry starts producing boxes of enormous size. This is the fastest way to fulfill the instructions of planning and regulatory authorities.

But no one needs such boxes either.

And then the State Planning Committee gives an order to produce boxes worth to so many million rubles. Great! Industry

starts producing polished boxes made of mahogany and ebony, with artistic paintings and silver locks. We produced very few and fulfilled the plan.

But no one needs such boxes either.

We can set the task in many other ways, but the result will be the same: the industry will not produce what the consumer needs.

Only because the natural connection between producer and consumer has been artificially severed.

Only because in a socialist state, the producer is accountable not to the consumer, but to the State Planning Committee.

In a normal civilized society, the consumer is the controller of price, assortment, and quality. In a socialist society, officials are in control. They control badly. Not because of bad people, but because no one is better able to control the range, price, quantity and quality of products than the consumer.

3

Comrades from the State Planning Committee are forced to give instructions to the industry on how many boxes to produce, what size, what material, at what price, how many nails to put in each box, when, where, and how many boxes to send.

But how could the State Planning Committee know how many and what kind of boxes would be needed in the next five-year plan? It could not and did not know.

So he molded the beets at random.

Therefore, the industry produced what was beneficial for the report. The plan was to produce a thousand tons of mustard, and the industry produced it in five-liter jars, reporting that it was completed ahead of schedule. It is much easier to produce one five-liter jar than 50 hundred-gram jars.

The mustard and the box are the simplest examples, but the Gosplan had to define HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS of indicators for millions of industrial products for five years ahead: From cruisers to horse shoes, from nuclear reactors to dog collars, from spacecraft to handkerchiefs, from unique hydro turbines to thimbles, from machine gun ammunition to fifth history textbooks in Georgian, from spinning wheels to soldiers' blankets, from window glass to Antarctic all-terrain vehicles, from condoms to polonium-beryllium neutron sources for RDS-6s thermonuclear charges.

The military industry was subject to special control by the state and punitive authorities. People were imprisoned or even shot for shortages. But this was another reason for the inefficiency of production: the labor of workers was controlled by thousands of military representatives and Chekists who did not produce anything themselves. However, it was impossible to put supervisors and Chekists in every workshop, and it was profitable for the industry to produce products on the verge of rejects. Why grind a part for an hour if the process can be reduced to two minutes?

The State Planning Committee controlled quantity. It was not capable of controlling the quality of bicycles and rakes, cameras and alarm clocks, fishing nets and files, milk and rolls, furniture and combs. He was not able to do so in principle.

4

Bismarck once said a phrase that became a prophecy: "If you want to build socialism, choose a country that you don't feel sorry for."

The socialist mode of production has inherent flaws that cannot be changed by any restructuring.

If you ban private business, the state becomes the only employer. And then there is a terrible arbitrariness of state representatives, i.e. bureaucrats. And then people run away from such a state. And the state is forced to close its borders and kill the fugitives.

A person can be free only if he or she is economically independent. But the socialist state, by taking control of all the means of production, makes all citizens dependent, i.e., deprives them of their freedom.

If millions of people are deprived of the right to decide for themselves what, when, and in what quantities to produce, then these issues will have to be resolved at the state level. In this case, there is a terrible concentration of power in the hands of those who run the state.

To make decisions on a scientific basis, you need to collect as much information as possible and determine with maximum accuracy who should do what. It's like a chess game: you need to calculate not only one move, but also the next. You need to plan not for a day or two, but to look into the future, at least for five years. The more detailed and accurate the plan, the better.

However, any initiative, whether useful or useless, disrupts the government's plans. The better and more precise the plan, the worse it is affected by the initiative of the executors. Even if ten million directors, designers, engineers, and workers take the initiative, they will destroy the entire planned economy. In order to preserve the socialist mode of production, the state is forced to suppress any initiative.

5

Here is another generic flaw of socialism: the best experts who create plans can plan the production of something that already exists. But how do you plan the production of something that hasn't been invented yet? You planned to saturate the country with gramophones, but the capitalists got the gramophone. You set up the production of radios of the widest range, spent huge amounts of money and the labor of thousands of top-class specialists, built factories, and the capitalists got transistors.

Introducing something new entails the risk of failure. A capitalist takes risks. He has to take risks to outrun his competitors. If he loses, he is out of the game.

And it is more convenient for a State Planning Committee official to plan the production of something that has already proven itself. There is no point in taking risks. That is why the Soviet Union chased the capitalists for seventy years, but it was basically impossible for a socialist state to catch up with them.

6

In 1971, Anatoly Pavlovich Fedoseev, a designer of Soviet over-the-horizon radars, Lenin Prize winner, and Hero of Socialist Labor, sought political asylum in Paris. He wrote an extraordinary book on socialist economics:

> "None of the socialist states have borne the expected fruit in the end. All of them, without exception (without a single exception!), are dictatorships whose most characteristic fruit is violence against human beings. Moreover, they are all strikingly uniform in their economic inefficiency.
>
> It can be considered experimentally proven that the socialist tree does not bear the fruits that were expected of it, but rather the exact opposite.
>
> This experiment has been conducted on such a huge scale and in such different conditions that only uninformed people can have doubts, and, of course, for obvious reasons, there are still a lot of them.
>
> What explains this uniformity of results (dictatorships)?
>
> The socialist structure creates a tremendous concentration of power and inevitably leads to dictatorship, to a totalitarian state with all its anti-human consequences. Socialism dramatically upsets the already very unfavorable balance between the individual and the state. If it were not for the inherent economic inefficiency of socialism, socialism would be an unrivaled means of military conquest of the entire world.
>
> Socialism is a colossal danger humanity and a trap from which it is extremely difficult to escape."
>
> *(The Trap. - London: ORI, 1979. - P. 370-371)*

7

Socialism is a dead end in the development of humanity.

But why shouldn't the leaders of a socialist state abandon centralized planning? Why not liberalize the economy? Why not abolish centralized planning?

Because no manufacturer will voluntarily do what the whole country needs, but not what they specifically need.

And what if he is interested?

The only way to make them interested is to give them a profit from the sale of the product. Have you decided to return to capitalism? Why did you plant a vegetable garden? Why all these revolutions and wars? Why the millions of victims?

However, a way out had to be found. And the leaders were increasingly asking themselves the question: Should we eliminate the Gosplan? Maybe they should give the directors of the factories the right to produce wooden boxes of the size, quality, and price that would satisfy the consumer?

It is clear that this could not be done. Otherwise, a total theft of property would have begun.

It makes no sense for a capitalist to steal from himself.

In a socialist state, a factory director is not an owner. Imagine that the heads of enterprises, who hold enormous material assets, have escaped the control of the Central Executive Committee, the State Planning Committee, the State Control Committee, the State Price Committee, and the State Labor and Wages Committee. What will come of this?

Anatoly Pavlovich Fedoseev, Hero of Socialist Labor, predicted what would happen if the economy of a socialist state was liberalized:

> "The next Khrushchev or Brezhnev, in exchange for the support of the people, will gnaw at the throats of his comrades and, due to inexperience, will introduce such "liberalism" that will destroy the main foundations, and with them the entire system."

(. - P. 372)

It was published in 1979, six years before the start of Gorbachev's perestroika and liberalization.

Fedoseev did not create the foresight radar in vain. He managed to look into the unknown at a time when Comrade Yuri Vladimirovich Andropov, a member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and head of the KGB, was just clearing the way for his protege, Comrade Mikhail Sergeevich Gorbachev, to take the top Kremlin post.

The apogee of the socialist economy under Gorbachev

KEY POINT

After fifty years of rule, the leaders of the Soviet Union had only two options.

More precisely, there was one option for action and one option for inaction. One could do nothing. This is exactly what Comrade Brezhnev did.

And the country was slowly sinking into an economic .

It was possible to break away. Comrades Andropov and Gorbachev, who continued his work, did so.

And then the plunge into the quagmire was rapid.

Section 27

1

On February 14-25, 1956, the XX Congress of the CPSU took place in Moscow.

The central event of the Congress was the approval of the 6th Five-Year Plan for the Development of the National Economy for 1956-1960.

The 6th five-year plan is interesting because it was disrupted . An unsustainable economy run by bureaucrats was failing.

The 6th Five-Year Plan, like all the previous and subsequent ones, was developed by an organization called the State Planning Committee. At the time, the head of the State Planning Committee was a member of the CPSU Central Committee, Comrade Nikolai Konstantinovich Baibakov. Baibakov was nominated by Khrushchev for the key position of head of the State Planning Committee because he had persistently supported and promoted two of Khrushchev's grandiose projects that allowed the Soviet Union to break out of the economic deadlock.

The first project is to raise virgin lands.

The second is to build the world's most powerful pipeline system, pumping out oil and selling it to European neighbors.

Huge teams of economists led by Baibakov drew up the 6th Five-Year Plan in the belief that the plowed virgin lands would produce so much grain that it would have to be exported abroad. The harsh reality made adjustments: huge costs, an environmental disaster, and again, a shortage of bread.

There was also a problem with the oil pipeline. Soviet industry was not capable of producing large-diameter pipes. Neither were our younger socialist brothers, including East Germany. But West Germany, where anarchy of production and the pursuit of celandine were rampant, could produce such pipes. However, the rulers of West Germany, realizing the threat to Europe from dependence on Soviet oil supplies, imposed an embargo on the sale of large-diameter pipes to the Soviet Union.

And the oil pipeline construction project was stalled.

Not a single five-year plan has ever been fulfilled. The 6th Five-Year Plan occupies a special place in this list, since all previous and subsequent five-year plans were somehow declared successful. But in 1956 and 1957 , bold instructions of the party

were so far out of line with the real capabilities of the economy, the planning distortions were so significant that in 1958 the implementation of the 6th Five-Year Plan had to be abandoned.

Khrushchev dismissed Baibakov and sent him to the provinces with a demotion.

XX Congress of the CPSU

2

In 1959, an extraordinary XXI Congress was convened, which adopted a seven-year plan for 1959-1965. The last two years of the failed 6th Five-Year Plan were bolted onto the next five-year plan. The result was a seven-year plan.

The Seven-Year Plan proved to be as disastrous as all previous and subsequent five-year plans. During the Seven-Year Plan, the Soviet Union began massive food purchases and within two years became the world's largest food importer. But during the seven-year plan, Khrushchev's long-held dream of laying a pipe was finally realized: to build the world's most powerful oil pipeline system to pump out world's most valuable natural resources. The West Germans were cajoled. They bent a terrible price. The price had to be paid. Otherwise, would not be would oil pipeline with famous name
"Friendship".

"Heating with oil with oil - to heat with appropriations." - said the prominent Russian scientist Dmitri Ivanovich Mendeleev.

"To trade resources is to trade the Motherland," Comrade Stalin said.

Khrushchev traded in the Motherland and heated it with appropriations.

3

A trick of fate: the Druzhba oil pipeline, built by order of Khrushchev, was inaugurated on October 15, 1964.

On October 13, 1964, as a result of a conspiracy, Khrushchev was ousted as First Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

On October 14, 1964, this was officially announced. On the same day, Brezhnev became the First Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

On October 15, 1964, oil started flowing through the pipeline. What a blessing! Now the collapse of the Soviet Union was postponed for at least a couple of decades. During these years, it was necessary to undermine or destroy the capitalist environment. Otherwise, the Soviet Union, having lost the economic competition, would turned into a raw material appendage of countries with normal economies.

Brezhnev returned Baibakov to the post of chairman of the State Planning Committee, where he spent exactly twenty years, from October 2, 1965, to October 14, 1985, paving the way for a "bright future" for the country with his plans, until he brought the Soviet Union's economy to ruin.

Baibakov became Deputy Prime Minister and was awarded six Orders of Lenin. Brezhnev awarded Baibakov the title of Hero of Socialist Labor.

Baibakov was well aware that it was impossible to plan all economic activity on the scale of a huge state. That is why he made a personal contribution to the system of socialist deception.

Under Baibakov's leadership, the country gradually moved away from five-year plans. The five-year plans remained, but there were no more five-year plans. Instead, every five years, Baibakov and his team published documents called "The Main Directions of the Development of the National Economy."

The economy remained ostensibly planned, but instead of real plans, the USSR State Planning Committee under Baibakov's leadership made up fantastic novels: it would be nice to reach such heights in five years. These were not plans, but five-year forecasts of a happy life that never came true.

Baibakov lived to be 97 years old. The new Russia crowned the exploits of the outstanding captain of the socialist economy with the Order of Merit for the Fatherland. Pumping out oil, burning the most valuable chemical raw materials in power plant boilers, and trading in non-renewable resources is considered a service to the Fatherland.

4

We got a little carried away. In fact, we are still in February 1956. We are still at the shameful XX Congress of the CPSU, which adopted the unrealizable 6th Five-Year Plan developed under the leadership of Baibakov.

The 20th Congress ended with the usual ritual for such an occasion: a choral singing of the Communist anthem:

> We will grind all the executioners to dust.
> Arise, army of beggars...

The congress was attended by delegations of fifty-five communist and labor parties from all over the world, from New Zealand to Canada to Uruguay. All of them were given a farewell dinner, treated to a Russian folk drink, and sent away with new successes in the struggle "for a brighter future" for all mankind.

The Soviet delegates were told not to leave. After that, a closed session of the congress was held, attended only by ours.

At a closed session, Khrushchev read his famous report on the cult of Stalin's personality. The official agenda did not include any secret report. This report overshadowed all other events of the congress.

Khrushchev is generally considered to be the culprit behind what happened at the XX Congress. However, Khrushchev held this congress with the full support of Zhukov, even in alliance with him. Without Zhukov's support, there would never have been any XX Congress, or rather, there would have been one, but it would have been the same as all the others.

The main conspirators - Zhukov and Khrushchev at the Congress

5

Khrushchev's version of our history was very simple and unusual.

1. Lenin was a great leader, he made a revolution, showed the way to "a bright future". Everything was good and right with us. If Lenin had lived...

2. The Bolshevik-Leninists Dzerzhinsky, Kirov, Kuibyshev, Eiche, Rudzutak, Raskolnikov were kind, wise, brave, sincere fighters for the people's happiness; they won the Civil War, they built a "bright future."

3. Tukhachevsky, Yakir, Blukher, and Dybenko were not enemies of the people; they were supposedly great commanders.

4. And suddenly, a bad Stalin appeared. He violated Lenin's norms of collective leadership. In 1937, Stalin unleashed terror against the Bolshevik-Leninists and great commanders.

5. Stalin deprived the army of its head. He did not prepare the country for war at all. Airplanes turned out to be coffins, tanks were outdated, and there was only one rifle for three. Great intelligence officers warned Stalin, but he did not listen. Hitler attacked, and Stalin hid. Then he led the war on the globe.

6. After the war, Stalin was preparing a new extermination of honest communists.

7. We all knew nothing about it.

— What should be done, comrades?" Khrushchev asked. And he answered:

— It is necessary to debunk the cult of Stalin's personality and return to Leninist norms of party life.

The audience listened with bated breath. At times, they responded to the speaker's words with loud indignation at the lawlessness committed by Stalin.

6

The report, contrary to established traditions and rules, was not discussed at the congress. Khrushchev read the report, and the Congress concluded its work for the second time. For some reason, the report was considered secret, but it was published in one million copies.

The discussion of the report was postponed to closed party conferences and meetings. The Communists stigmatized Stalin.

Khrushchev said a lot of interesting things. But he forgot to say that it was not Stalin who started the terror in the country, but Lenin, Sverdlov, Trotsky, Dzerzhinsky, and all their brothers. Stalin was one of them, but by no means the most important.

Khrushchev forgot to mention that the terror did not begin in 1937, but exactly twenty years earlier in 1917.

Khrushchev somehow forgot that not only loyal Communist-Leninists were killed during the terror, but that the Communist-Leninists had killed tens of millions of people during their twenty years of power, and only later did some of them also fall into the meat grinder, which they themselves had furiously spun up.

For some reason, Khrushchev also said nothing about his role.

7

Khrushchev continued to denounce Stalin after the Congress.

> "I'll give you some scary figures: in just two years, 1937 and 1938, more than a million and a half people were arrested, and 68,692 of them were shot."

This is Khrushchev's speech a year after the XX Congress (Molotov, Malenkov, Kaganovich. 1957. Transcript of the June Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. - Moscow, 1998. - P. 479).

The numbers do seem frightening to those who do not know our history. By 1937 and 1938, the extermination of the Russian people and all other peoples of our country was on the table.

Neither Khrushchev nor his followers mentioned this. They also had absolutely no memory of what each of them did during 1937-1938.

Section 28

1

Khrushchev called for a return to Leninist norms of party life and collective leadership.

Here are some Leninist norms:

> "To Penza. 11/VIII-1918.
>
> Comrades Kuraev, Bosch, Minkin and other Penza communists.
>
> Comrades! The uprising of the five kulak volosts must lead to ruthless suppression. This is in the interest of the entire revolution, for now the "last decisive battle" with the kulaks has been fought. A model must be set.
>
> 1. Hang at least 100 obvious kulaks, rich people, and bloodsuckers (be sure to hang them so that the people can see them).
> 2. Publish their names.
> 3. Take away all their bread.
> 4. Appoint hostages in accordance with 3 in accordance with yesterday's telegram.
>
> Make sure that for hundreds of miles around, people see, tremble, know, and shout: they are strangling and will strangle the bloodsuckers kulaks.
>
> Telegraph receipt and execution. Yours, Lenin.
>
> P.S. Find people who are as tough as possible."
>
> *(CPA IML. Fund. 2. Description. 1. Fp. 6898. Underlined by Lenin)*

Immediately after the collapse of the Soviet Union, there was a very brief period when the doors of the Central Party Archive (CPA) were slightly ajar. The brave intelligence officer of our past, A. G. Latyshev, took advantage of this opportunity, collected some documents in this archive written by Lenin's hand on the letterhead of the Council of People's Commissars, and published not only

text and photocopies in Demokraticheskaya Gazeta (November 1991, no. 21), then in book Declassified Lenin (Moscow: Izdatelstvo Mart, 1996, pp. 57-60).

The 336 pages of Latyshev's book are filled with similar documents.

The leaders of the new Russia quickly recovered, and the doors of the archives were securely locked again. But even this document alone, not to mention the entire book, is enough to appreciate the kindness of Grandpa Lenin.

He orders the public hanging of the rich. It doesn't matter which ones. If it's a rich person, then they should take all their bread and hang them.

Comrade Lenin himself lived in the Kremlin and drove only Rolls-Royce cars.

Comrade Sverdlov, in the same Kremlin, filled his personal safe with gold coins of the tsarist mint, rings, brooches, bracelets with diamonds, rubies, emeralds and sapphires.

Comrade Trotsky was running around the country in a tsarist train.

Comrade Dzerzhinsky lived in the mansion where Savva Morozov, the richest man in Russia, lived before the communist coup.

Lenin and Trotsky, Sverdlov and Dzerzhynsky hated the rich, killed millions of people during the Civil War and the Red Terror to make everyone equal, so that there would be no more rich people and bloodsuckers on earth.

All of these fighters for universal equality took hostages, i.e., known innocents, and shot them by the thousands for the sake of universal happiness.

And so Khrushchev called on the Communist Party, which had committed countless atrocities against our people and the peoples of all neighboring countries, to debunk the cult of Stalin's personality and return to Leninist norms.

And there are people who consider Khrushchev almost a fighter for freedom and truth.

2

With one report, Khrushchev killed not two birds with one stone, but a whole herd of wild boars.

First, he was taking the Communist Party out of harm's way. An explosion was brewing in the country. Khrushchev was shifting the people's anger from the entire criminal system of socialism to one person.

Secondly, Khrushchev made it clear to the nomenklatura in his speech that there would be no purges of the leadership from now on. The socialist system
- It is the only monopoly in all spheres of life and activity of society; it does not and cannot have a system of personnel rotation. Stalin renewed the leadership by partially firing the fat cats. Khrushchev abolished this as well.

In doing so, he condemned the country to decay and death.

In doing so, he bought himself the support of the entire CPSU leadership, from party committees and district committees to regional committees and above.

Thirdly, by buying the support of the nomenklatura, Khrushchev was returning the Communist Party to the leadership. Stalin was the party's General Secretary. In addition, in May 1941, he took over the leadership of the government. Under Stalin, the center of government gradually moved from the Communist Party Central Committee to the government. After Stalin's death, Khrushchev became the head of the Communist Party only because this post was considered secondary to the post of head of government. At the 20th Congress of the CPSU, Khrushchev returned the Communist Party to its leadership role in the country.

Fourthly, Khrushchev got a weapon in his hands against all his rivals and enemies. After Stalin's death, Khrushchev did everything in his power to destroy traces of his own crimes in the archives and to collect materials on his opponents. By speaking out against Stalin, he declared: "I am not like that." After that, anyone who did not dare to oppose him could be called a Stalinist and thrown off the Olympus.

Fifth, Khrushchev as a politician looked too pale against Stalin. By throwing shit on the dead Stalin, Khrushchev tried to exalt himself: "Stalin is a villain, and I am a fighter for the truth."

It should be said that there were some comrades among the intelligentsia who liked Khrushchev's speech terribly . They

declared: "We are the children of the XX Congress. These children of the Arbat were praising the wisdom and frankness of Khrushchev just as they had praised the wisdom of Stalin yesterday. The children of the XX Congress were furiously destroying Stalinism. Let us ask: why did these brave comrades not destroy Leninism?

The answer is simple: there was no command to do so.

At the same time, there was never any Stalinism.

What Stalin did was just the mildest of all possible variants of Leninism.

Stalinism Leninism with a human face.

3

In theory, the Congress was considered the supreme governing body of the Communist Party.

The congress allegedly determined the party's tasks for the immediate and long-term future. The congress allegedly elected the Central Committee, which led the party until the new congress, implementing the program. After a certain period of time, a new congress would convene, hear a report from the previous Central Committee on the work done, set new goals, and elect a new set of leaders.

The practice did not coincide with the theory. More precisely, it was its opposite. But they always pretended not to notice it.

In reality, the supreme leaders, i.e. members of the Politburo of the Central Committee (from 1952 to 1966 - the Presidium of the Central Committee), pulled their people up, making room for them, suppressing and overthrowing their rivals, and at the same time

- and their own nominees, who did not live up to expectations.

The composition of the Central Committee is the result of terrible backstage battles; at any given moment, it is a compromise between the leaders: you have so many people, so let me bring in another one! Otherwise, all sorts of things will come to light about the activities of your guys Ivanov and Petrov!

Throughout the history of the Communist Party, it has never been possible to place all the candidates in the Central Committee. The first congress elected the Central Committee. Then their number was constantly increasing. In October 1917, there were already so many people in the Central Committee that it was impossible to agree on anything. Therefore, the Politburo was formed from the members of the Central Committee, which led the seizure of power in the camp. After completing this task, the Politburo was dissolved. In 1919, it was organized again, this time on a permanent basis.

And the Central Committee grew larger and larger after each party congress.

In October 1952, the XIX Congress elected 125 members and 110 candidates to the Central Committee.

In February 1956, at the XX Congress, there were 133 members and 122 candidates for the Central Committee.

The pace of expansion of the Central Committee grew rapidly. Under Gorbachev, in 1990, the last XXVIII Congress of the CPSU elected a Central Committee of 412 full members. Compared to the initial number, this was a 137-fold increase!

How could 412 people gathered together solve any issues? They didn't.

Disabled wars M. I. Egorov for four months before before the collapse of the Soviet Union, he wrote in Military History Journal (1991. № 4-. - P. 2): "On May 9, 1990, I met my comrades-in-arms. A hundred grams with a trailer is sacred to them". However:

> "The store was empty, and young men were selling vodka for twice the price."

This is the result of a planned, bureaucrat-driven economy. The victorious country could not provide its defenders with apartments, adequate medical care, decent pensions, clothing, or shoes. The country was chronically short of medicines and spare parts for cars, gloves and socks, sausage and cheese. Comrade Gorbachev was reached, and reached: the beggars who liberated Europe could not buy vodka with their miserable pennies to drink to the Victory.

All stores in the country are state-owned. However, the state was unable to provide its citizens with even low-grade, cloudy potions in crooked bottles with faded labels.

When did this happen in Russia?

And 412 members of the Central Committee were meeting. They were deciding how to build socialism in Ethiopia and Angola. It was that, following our example and likeness, the late leader of Angola should be laid to rest in a mausoleum built with our money, illiterate Africans should be provided with the most modern weapons, and collective farms should be established. And they would be happy.

The result was a terrible famine, civil war, terrorism and banditry.

4

But we got carried away. Let's go back to February 1956 to the XX Congress of the CPSU.

At the last XIX Party Congress, Beria, along with his other cronies, nominated Army General Shtemenko as a candidate for the Central Committee. Six months later, Beria was arrested and killed, while Shtemenko was demoted to lieutenant general and exiled to Siberia to command the district headquarters.

And somehow they forgot to expel him from the list of candidates for the CPSU Central Committee.

And here comes the XX Congress of the CPSU.

Lieutenant General Shtemenko is obliged to attend the congress as a candidate for the Central Committee, because the Central Committee has to report on the work done to the Kuban Cossacks in silk shirts, to pig farmers and shepherds.

Shtemenko spent his days and hours at the congress, clapping his hands together with everyone else, approving the general line of the party. The last day was the election of a new Central Committee.

The floor was given to Comrade Khrushchev. Comrade Khrushchev read out the list.

The list was agreed upon in advance with all stakeholders. Now, during the secret ballot, each delegate to the congress has the right to cross anyone off the list and add anyone to it. This will not change or solve anything. Everything has been decided long ago.

Shtemenko's name did not appear on the list of the new Central Committee. Nor was it on the list of candidates.

There is no one to stand up for the lieutenant general, and no one to drag him to the Central Committee, no one to even put in a good word to keep the general among the candidates.

5

The Congress unanimously voted for the new Central Committee. The delegates were then given a two-hour break. They could have some refreshments. Of course, everything here is free: balychok, sturgeon caviar sandwiches, and everything that goes with those sandwiches to keep your throat from drying out. Everything here is in a wide range and of the highest quality. It's just like in communism.

At this time, behind tightly closed doors, the new Central Committee is gathered for the first plenum to elect even more senior officials. However, even here, everything was decided in advance.

Comrade Khrushchev reads out a list to the new, not too different from the old, Central Committee: these comrades will be members of the Presidium of the Central Committee, and these
- candidates.

The voting is now open. By a show of hands. All those opposed? Any abstentions? It is unanimously adopted.

Comrades Bulganin, Voroshilov, Kaganovich, Kirichenko, Malenkov, Mikoyan, Molotov, Pervukhin, Saburov, Suslov, and Khrushchev are members of the Presidium of the Central Committee.

Candidates: Zhukov, Brezhnev, Mukhitdinov, Shepilov, Furtseva, Shvernik.

The Presidium of the Central Committee is almost the same as it was in the last years of Stalin's life.

After Stalin, Comrade Khrushchev has the greatest achievements in the field of power struggle. That is why in 1955 he nominated his former subordinate in Kyiv, Comrade Kirichenko, to the Presidium. Now, in February 1956, Khrushchev promoted his old associates Zhukov, Brezhnev, and Furtseva to the Presidium.

The members of the Central Committee Presidium are listed alphabetically in the list of leaders, because we are a democracy and have collective leadership. All leaders are equal. At least in theory.

And the candidates for the Central Committee Presidium are included in the list according to their political influence. If necessary, one of them will replace the retired member of the Presidium of the Central Committee. Therefore, the indicated is valid for that time

the order in which they will rise to the highest level of power.

The first in line was the Minister of Defense of the USSR, Marshal of the Soviet Union Georgy Konstantinovich Zhukov.

6

At the 20th Congress, Khrushchev told some of Comrade Stalin's deeds, thus smearing mud and blood on both the uniform of the vigilant organs and the jacket of the party that Comrade Stalin had led for thirty years.

Khrushchev won tactically but lost strategically.

By taking Stalin's place, declaring him a villain, cannibal, murderer, and executioner, Khrushchev deprived himself of the opportunity to become great in the eyes of the people.

Therefore, the only winner at the 20th Congress of the CPSU was the Minister of Defense, Marshal Zhukov of the Soviet Union.

And here's why.

Khrushchev's report to the Twentieth Congress stated that the Communist Party had been in power for thirty-eight years, thirty of which were led by a criminal and cannibal. And Khrushchev himself, this did not escape people's attention, was the cannibal's assistant.

It turned out that in our entire history there was, in fact, only one bright moment: the war. But even during the war, Stalin, according to Khrushchev, did everything wrong.

Nevertheless, the Red Army reached Berlin. Who

brought it there in spite of Stalin?

That's right, the sole deputy of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, Marshal Zhukov of the Soviet Union.

Zhukov felt his victory at the 20th Congress of the CPSU. He immediately went on the offensive against his benefactor Khrushchev.

Before the XX Congress, Zhukov demanded that the Border and Internal Troops be transferred to the Soviet Army.

Having failed to achieve his goal, Zhukov, immediately after the XX Congress, approached the problem from a different angle.

He suggested that Khrushchev remove his old friend Ivan Serov from the post of KGB Chairman and replace him with a general of the Soviet Army (Zhukov Georgii. Transcript of the October (1957) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and other documents. Moscow: International Foundation.
"Democracy, 2001. - P. 244).

The same should be done in the Ministry of Internal Affairs: dismiss Minister Dudorov and replace him with an army general or marshal.

Khrushchev gnashed his teeth, but he was in no hurry to replace Serov and Dudorov with Zhukov's boys.

Once upon a time, back in 1940, a powerful triumvirate was formed in Kyiv-Khrushchev, Zhukov, and Serov. There was a triumvirate of power in our country: Party-Army-KGB. In fact, Zhukov's proposal to remove Serov and replace him with a general from Zhukov's entourage meant the creation of a new structure: Party-Army-Army.

At the same time, the Party was deprived of any control over the Army. And these were not Zhukov's proposals, but his practical actions.

I don't know how Khrushchev reacted to Zhukov's proposal to remove Serov.

In my opinion, Khrushchev should have shuddered before the predatory nature of Zhukov's future dictatorship.

But there no sign of it.

7

In October 1952, at the previous XIXth Congress, Shtemenko and Zhukov became candidates for the CPSU Central Committee. Three and a half years had passed. In July 1953, Zhukov became a member of the Central Committee and now, in February 1956, a candidate for the Presidium of the Central Committee.

And Shtemenko dropped out of the party leadership.

Three years later, Khrushchev demoted Army General Shtemenko to lieutenant general. Now Lieutenant General Shtemenko, who had served as Marshal of the Soviet Union for four years under Stalin, was not fit to be a member of the Central Committee, not even a candidate.

That was Khrushchev's decision.

Therefore, Shtemenko could not be Khrushchev's friend.

That is why Marshal Zhukov of the Soviet Union approached Lieutenant General Shtemenko immediately after the 20th Congress of the CPSU:

— You will come hunting with me.

— "Comrade Marshal of the Soviet Union, my business trip is over, I have to return to my place of permanent service.

— And I order," - feigned in a stern tone chopped Zhukov.
He smiled and winked.

8

The hunt was successful.

They killed a fat boar. Then another one. They didn't even try to find out who killed it. It didn't matter!

It gets dark early. By the evening it was frozen. The forest is covered with silver. Who said that the moon sheds sad light on sad glades? It is not true! It sheds joyful light on the meadow! And in the silver glasses, too. A fire is crackling on that lawn, as if it were shooting back at enemies. Sparks are falling to the sky like Vesuvius.

The table was set. Jokes, laughter, jokes. Something frosty and fiery was poured. We drank it. In the brutal cold, it goes down so damn well. We drank some more. There are five marshals at the table alone: Zhukov, Konev, Chuikov, Biryuzov, Moskalenko, and about ten generals. Most of them have three or four stars each. There is only one general with two stars.

— Shtemenko.

Zhukov and Shtemenko stepped aside as if to throw a log into the fire:

— It's not me who runs the party, Sergei Matveyevich, not me. It's not my fault that you weren't elected to the Central Committee. Where the power is mine, I will do what I can. Do you remember our conversation at the Totsk training grounds?

— I remember.

— You recommended Lieutenant General Mamsurov to me. You told me it was time to bet on the army. So I did. He is now in charge of the 38th Army in the Carpathian region. Did you tell me, Serhii Matviiovych, that Mamsurov would do a serious job if necessary?

— He said.

— Did you change your mind?

— No.

— If I put you in charge of the GRU, will you take on a serious case?

Zhukov (far left) on the hunt

9

The joy is not only in a successful hunt.

The joy is not only in the crispy snow, not only in the invigorating frost.

The joy is not only in the water of fire.

Suddenly, somehow, the meaning of the 20th Congress began to dawn on everyone. In 1953, the enemy of the people, Beria, a foreign spy, pest, and sexual maniac, was exposed, arrested, and shot. His closest associates were exposed and shot along with him. The Chekists have been dealt a blow of unprecedented strength. The Chekists are disgraced. The Chekists became silent. And, apparently, they will never recover from the wounds inflicted.

Now, at the XX Congress of the CPSU, Khrushchev cut them some more slack: "They created terror and bloody lawlessness in the country! They killed our best leaders and commanders!"

But Khrushchev also inadvertently struck a blow against the Communist Party. The party has ruled the country for almost thirty-nine years. For thirty of those years, the party was led by Stalin, a criminal who desecrated Lenin's principles of collective leadership, violated the norms of socialist legitimacy, exterminated the color of our people, deprived the army of its head, and failed to prepare the country for war!

At the Twentieth Congress, the Communist Party exposed itself through the mouth of its First Secretary. The Communist Party has stabbed itself in the fat belly with a knife.

So what does it turn out to be?

It turns out that only the Army, our native Soviet Army, is pure before history and the people. Yes, marshals and generals are members of the party and its governing structures. But this is a part-time position. If there is no party tomorrow, the party leaders will become unemployed, and marshals and generals will remain commanders. What is the purpose of the party then?

The world is ruled by those who won the war.

Who is the main military hero in America? Eisenhower. And what did he do now? He got a job as the boss of America.

Who was in charge of the French in the war? De Gaulle. After the war, he ruled France. Now he's gone. But he will return soon. There is no one else.

Who was the first and foremost leader in Yugoslavia during the war? Marshal Tito. Now he has become their leader and teacher.

Why, don't we have marshals for this kind of thing? Who

won the war? The army!

Who strengthened the greatness of the country by throwing the Tatiana at the Totsk training ground? The Army! What would the party leaders be doing now if the Army had not proved to them that victory in World War III was possible?

Who is capable of restoring order in the country? The

army! Who else? Who else but us?

It's good in the forest among the fluffy fir trees on a blue evening in the cold. If your fur coat is warm. If you also put a long coat over your shoulders. If the vodka is clean and clear. If you haven't forgotten the pickled mushrooms and pickles. If the pink bacon is cut into thin slices. If the field kitchen covers the lawn with acrid, tearful, native and sweet smoke. If the cook knows his job well.

It's good to have loyal friends in a noisy crowd around you.

Marshal Chuykov, bear clubfoot, grabbed Zhukov with an oblique grip and let's wrestle!

Not on that attacked the wrong person! Zhukov deftly caught with his left, and both of them fell into the snow laughing.

They get up. They shake off the snow. Chuikov quietly looks to the side, no longer joking:

- Georgy Konstantinovich, why don't you take power?

KEY POINT

The 20th Congress of the CPSU inflicted a fatal wound on the Soviet Union and the entire socialist camp.

У exempted from the "brown plague" countries comrade Stalin established a just social system and thus ensured

happy life for workers in Poland, Hungary, the GDR, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, and Albania.

Suddenly, Comrade Khrushchev, the Chief Communist of the planet Earth, officially announced to the whole world that Comrade Stalin was a villain of a global scale not seen since biblical times.

Khrushchev's speech split society into two irreconcilable camps.

Some demanded that no criticism of Stalin be allowed. Others received official confirmation that Stalin was a villain. But if so, then the order established by the Urka and the murderer must be changed.

On February 25, 1956, the Twentieth Congress closed in Moscow, and two weeks later, on the night of March 9-10 of the same year, on Zhukov's order, troops shot a demonstration in Tbilisi. The demonstrators demanded an end to criticism of Stalin. The most radical ones put forward the slogan of Georgia's secession from the Soviet Union.

No one doubts that Zhukov personally ordered the bloody suppression of the demonstration in Tbilisi. The crowd in Tbilisi was shot with machine guns, dispersed with tanks and armored personnel carriers. And none of them would move without the order of the Minister of Defense, Marshal Zhukov of the Soviet Union. He himself would state this a year later at the June 1957 plenum of the CPSU Central Committee.

Zhukov's recipe was to crush people with tanks until they realized the advantages of the socialist mode of production. Zhukov was eager to expose the crimes of the previous leader: "Stalin had a bad socialism, I will have a good one! I will continue the socialist experiment at any cost, I will not let anyone out of the cage!"

It didn't take long for a workers' strike to break out in Poznan on June 28, 1956. What should the power of the proletariat do if the proletarians demand freedom?

The right thing to do is to shoot.

In Poznan, according to various sources, about a hundred workers were killed and several hundred wounded. I do not know the exact numbers.

In response to the shooting, a wave of strikes, spontaneous rallies, and demonstrations swept across Poland, which would subside and then rise with renewed vigor.

The countries of Western Europe were a tempting example of another life. By their very existence, they forced everyone who could think to ask questions: a why in us not so? a why b 0 and 1 us not

to have a life like theirs? What is stopping us? What needs to be changed?

Comrades Khrushchev, Bulganin, and Zhukov made beautiful speeches about the peaceful existence of the two systems, but they clearly understood that this coexistence could not last: a socialist, i.e. bureaucratic, system of economic management meant that the Soviet Union would fall behind and become a raw material appendage of states with normal economic systems.

This could only be prevented if the rest of the world was brought back to our path.

That is why, on September 10, 1956, military exercises were held at the Semipalatinsk training grounds on Zhukov's order. Topic:
"The use of tactical airborne assault following a nuclear strike to hold the area of destruction until the approach of the advancing troops from the front."

They were again practicing a scenario of an offensive operation with a nuclear strike to break the enemy's defense.

Zhukov planned to repeat the exercise at the Totsk training grounds, only this time with a helicopter landing. But Khrushchev did not allow it: the Samara River flows into the Volga where the Soviet Union's reserve capital is located.

Zhukov planned to send not one but two corps into the breakthrough. But Khrushchev objected even here: "Enough, we have already proved to those who had doubts that victory in World War III is possible. We are conducting the exercise not to prove anything to anyone, but to gain experience and refine theoretical calculations."

Therefore, only two regiments actually participated in the exercise: The 345th Parachute Regiment from the Airborne Forces and the 413th Helicopter Regiment from the Air Force.

As at the Totsk test site, the imaginary enemy built a strong defense. The Eastern troops launched a nuclear strike on the second position. This time, the carrier was a Tu-16A. The RDS-4 Tatyana bomb has a yield of 38 kilotons.

The task of the landing force is to land near the epicenter, gain a foothold, and prevent the enemy from closing the gap.

The two reinforced rifle corps were tasked with striking the adjacent flanks of and through the epicenter, temporarily held by the

paratroopers, to break into the operational space. However, the participation of the two reinforced corps was conditional.

In fact, 1,500 soldiers and officers took part in the exercise. After the shockwave and dust plume had passed, 27 Mi-4 helicopters landed near the epicenter, landing the second battalion of the parachute regiment. The battalion was equipped with two 57-mm anti-tank guns, six B-10 recoilless cannons, and four 82-mm mortars, in addition to its regular weapons.

Only those who have seen a helicopter landing in the desert can appreciate the spectacle. A nuclear explosion over a huge area instantly dries the soil, turns it into dust, which is blown off the ground in huge masses and into the air. At the same time, 27 helicopters land in the area of the explosion!

Helicopters landed and took off! It's beautiful! Only there is a lot of dust. Radioactive.

The exercise led to the conclusion that in future wars, when breaking through enemy defenses, helicopter landing parties should land at the epicenter 15-20 minutes after the explosion.

The exercise was a success. The picture was spoiled by one minor episode that everyone tried to ignore: the bomb exploded exactly at the estimated height of 270 meters, but, as the report said, "with a significant deviation from the target."

In other words, in a real war, the defense of a real enemy might not have been breached. But they could have hit their own.

Another thing: the historical form of the 345th Parachute Regiment does not record participation in the exercises at the Semipalatinsk training ground in September 1956.

And Poland was boiling in those days.

The Soviet leaders decided that it was time to put an end to the vile counterrevolution and extended a hand of friendship to the Polish people. On October 19, 1956, tank and motorized rifle regiments and divisions of the Soviet Army were raised on combat alert and stationed in Poland. They were in full readiness to provide fraternal assistance to the proletarian regime.

On the same day, October 19, 1956, comrades Khrushchev, Molotov, Kaganovich, and Mikoyan arrived in Warsaw for the plenary session of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party (PUP).

The Polish comrades were not waiting for the Soviet comrades, so they were not allowed into the meeting room. The Soviet comrades had to make a show of it and order the tank and motorized rifle units to return to their permanent locations.

The Polish comrades elected a new leadership of the PORP, asking Polish Marshal Rokosowski and other comrades to pack their bags, leave the territory of Poland, and not to provide any more fraternal assistance.

That's what the villain Beria suggested three years ago: "It's better to leave on your own, without waiting for them to run for your life."

Four days later, on October 23, 1956, the Hungarian Revolution broke out...

Bristol
March 21, 2013.

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notes

Notes.

1

After 1937-38, there were many vacancies. TPOs ruled everywhere. People began to talk about how a temporary acting official was "vredstvo," or sabotage. We had to introduce a new term, "temporary acting officer" (TBO).

2

Churchill, Winston.